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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree that installing power poles in Marpi will destroy the tourist spot's natural beauty?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Control Rooms
Saipan now has 36 new and enclosed electrical panels or control rooms for water wells.

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Biggest Spike
Seawater in Japan is found with the biggest spike in radioactive iodine.

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Rocket Attack
Moammar Gadhafi's forces hammer rebels with tanks and rockets.

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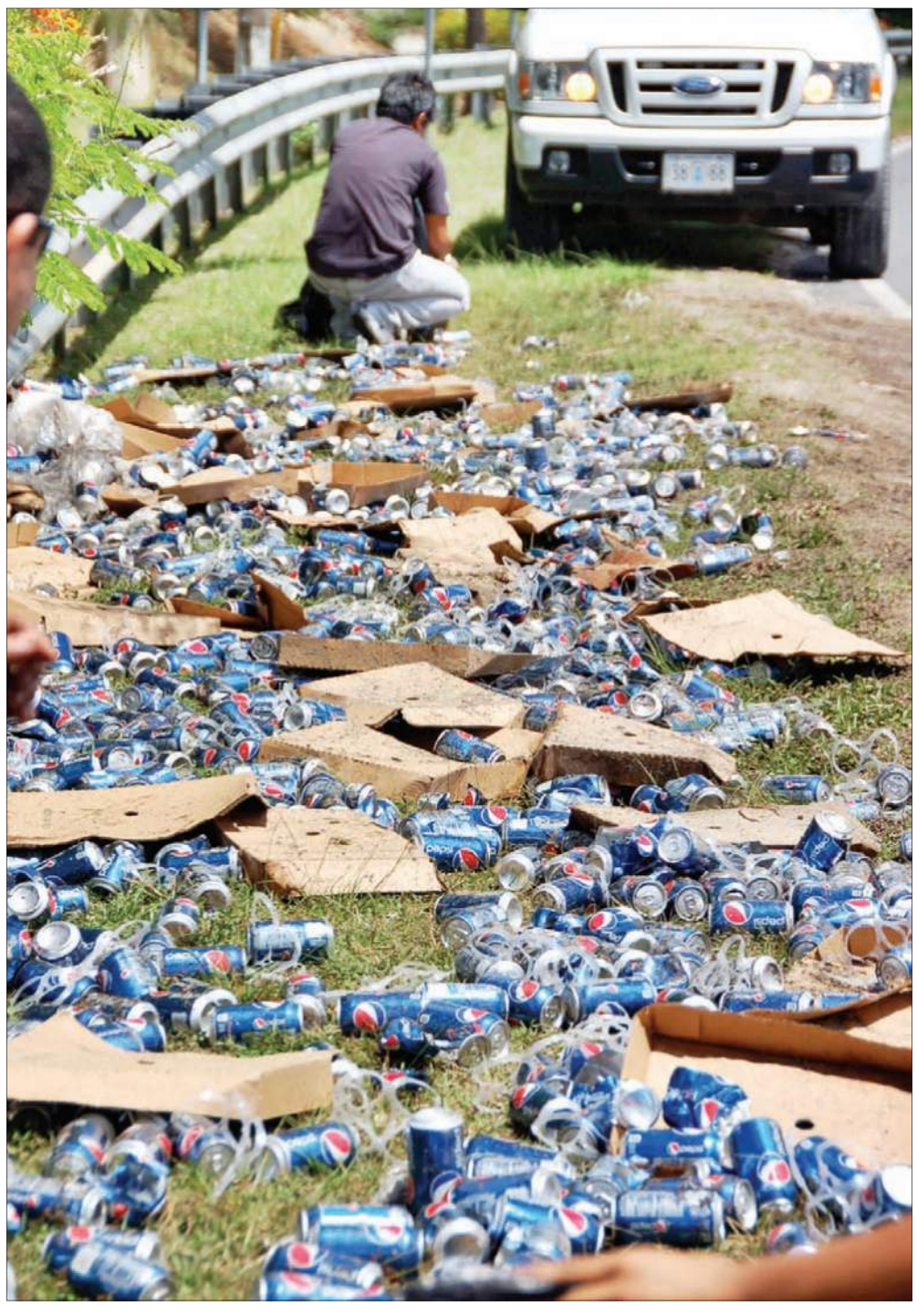
DPH receives 1,500 new doses of flu vaccine. PAGE 5
Ichikawa's body was cremated upon arrival in Japan. PAGE 13

TO CUSHION IMPACT OF JAPAN DISASTERS

300 positions slashed in '12 budget



SODA ON THE SIDE P.G.
Employees of Pacific Trading Co. pick up an estimated 180 cases of Pepsi that fell from a delivery truck as it was negotiating the turn along Beach Road in Susupe, near the Saipan Community Church and Susupe Beach Park yesterday morning. Police assisted traffic while the cleanup was ongoing.

» Tourism incentive program to be shifted from Japan to Korea agents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Fitial

Some 300 fulltime employee positions in the fiscal year 2011 budget will be slashed from the estimated $120 million spending plan for 2012, which the Fitial administration will try to finalize today.

The administration has only until tomorrow to submit its budget plan to the Legislature.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that it is "highly unlikely" that the estimated $120 million budget will change after Fitial convenes the governor's council today.

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'Overstayers now close to 3,000'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the number of "overstayers" or foreigners who are staying illegally in the CNMI has gone up from close to 2,000 early last year to almost 3,000.

He said these overstayers need to be deported.

The governor said he brought up this matter with Gary Mead, the executive associate director for Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the

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Fitial: Palacios would be formidable as delegate bet

» GOP president says several names have cropped up

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Now that he's back in the party he helped build before creating a new one, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that former House speaker Arnold I. Palacios would be a "formidable" delegate candidate for the Republicans in the 2012 elections.

"I have confidence in him. … He'll be a formidable candidate," the governor said in an interview at the ribbon-cutting of a new enclosure for a Kagman water well electrical panel.

Republican Party president Juan I. Tenorio, when asked for com-

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Local

36 newly enclosed control rooms for Saipan water wells

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from left, leads the ribbon-cutting for a newly completed enclosure of an electrical panel for the Kagman Water Well KG9 yesterday morning. From left, Emergency Management Office director Jack Omar, Fitial, ASC Corp. vice president Hao Xu, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Mariano Iglecias, and U.S. Office of Insular Affairs' Keith Aughbenbaugh. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan now has 36 new and enclosed electrical panels or control rooms for water wells at eight different locations, thanks to a combined federal grant of $796,000. The enclosures will protect the electrical panels during typhoons and other disasters.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial led the ribbon-cutting yesterday morning for one of the newly completed water well control panel security fences in Kagman.

The Kagman Water Well KG9 is just one of the 36 water wells with electrical panels that are enclosed, along with those in other villages such as Marpi, As Lito, Capital Hill, and Obyan.

CNMI Water Task Force program manager Pete Sasamoto said the notice to proceed was issued to ASC Construction in July 2009 for the construction of the enclosures. Work was completed on March 25.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is the end-recipient of the project, funded by both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Office of Insular Affairs.

"We now have 36 security fences and exterior slabs. The control building for the electrical panels have visual alarms, so if you see them flashing red, that means there's a problem so you should call [CUC]," Sasamoto said.

Fitial recognized the CNMI Water Task Force, OIA, and the CNMI Capital Improvement Project Office for coordinating and facilitating the project, as well as FEMA and ASC Corp.

"The cost of this project was co-shared by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant totaling $597,000 and $199,000 through an OIA CIP grant," Fitial said in his remarks.

"We remain committed to pursuing infrastructure projects that are of great importance for our community" he added.

OIA's Keith Aughgenbaugh lauded the Water Task Force for being "creative" in seeking funding for this project, considering the financial difficulties.

He also said Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta has been an advocate for the project, and will be on Saipan by end-May or early June for a school assessment project by OIA.

CUC's Mariano Iglecias assured that CUC will make sure to regularly maintain the panels.

Emergency Management Office director Jack Omar and ASC Corp. vice president Hao Xu also delivered brief remarks at the ceremony, which was followed by lunch.

CLARIFICATION

The Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Marianas March Against Cancer Committee would like to correct an error in our previous press releases, which suggested that the Transportation Security Administration is officially supporting and/or sponsoring an upcoming golf tournament fundraiser. We would like to clarify that TSA is not officially hosting, supporting, or funding this event, has not solicited any prizes in connection with the event, and has no official connection to any private organization, including CCA or MMAC. Any TSA personnel involved in this event are participating in their personal capacity and no official endorsement is intended.

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'Judge's wife related to Atalig and his lawyer'

» Tenorio says Inos warned her of sanctions if she pushes for his disqualification

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyer of Tinian Mayor Raymond M. Dela Cruz argues that Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos should be disqualified from presiding over the lawsuit filed by Felipe Q. Atalig against the mayor and treasurer Allen Perez because Inos' wife is related to Atalig and Atalig's lawyer, Robert H. Myers.

Lillian Tenorio, counsel for Dela Cruz and Perez, filed the motion to disqualify Inos from presiding over Atalig's lawsuit despite the judge reportedly warning her at an earlier hearing that he would sanction her if she were to seek his disqualification.

Saipan Tribune learned that Inos recently heard the motion to disqualify and placed the matter under advisement.

As of press time yesterday, Myers had yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment.

Atalig is suing Dela Cruz and Perez for allegedly failing to respond to his two Open Government Act requests.

In her declaration, Tenorio said she has learned that Judge Inos's father, Joseph S. Inos, is the brother-in-law of Atalig's first cousin.

Tenorio said that Atalig and the judge's wife, Debra Concepcion Atalig Inos, are second cousins.

Myers on the other hand, is also the second cousin of Judge Inos's wife, Tenorio said.

She said that prior to his appointment as a judge, Inos, who was in private practice then, had told her that before assuming judicial office, he would be turning over his cases to Myers.

While still in private practice, Inos also served as a mentor to Myers, Tenorio said.

Tenorio cited three cases in which Inos disqualified himself.

In one case, Tenorio said, Inos disclosed that he and the plaintiff were second cousins, while in the other case he recused himself without offering any reason.

In the third case, Inos disclosed that the alleged victim is the family's veterinarian, who treated their pet dog.

She said prior to the Feb. 23, 2011 hearing, she had learned that then attorney Inos had assisted Dela Cruz with a matter being pursued by attorney Ramon Quichocho in his capacity as an attorney for the Marianas Public Lands Authority.

Tenorio said that Atalig filed an Open Government Act request with the Department of Public Lands, MPLA's successor agency, for access to records pertaining to that matter.

She said that, at the start of the Feb. 23 hearing, she raised the issue of disqualification with Inos on the basis of his prior representation of Dela Cruz involving DPL records.

She said Inos responded by disclosing that he had also served as counsel for Atalig. Inos did not elaborate on the nature of representation.

Tenorio said the judge then stated he would not recuse himself as Atalig's complaint did not involve the Open Government request with DPL and concerned only the public records of the Tinian Mayor's Office.

"He then warned me about Rule 11 sanctions if I were to file a written motion to disqualify. But Judge Inos stated 'yes,' when I asked if I might file such a motion at a later date," she pointed out.

Tenorio also pointed out that the judge has repeatedly told the parties that this matter must proceed quickly since he does not want to prejudice Atalig's case and his right to an expedited hearing.

And yet, Tenorio said, Inos has never expressed any concern with the rights of the mayor or the municipality, nor interest or concern with the hardship or costs to the mayor and the municipality.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 4:30pm, Zoning Board Conference room, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Hearings
1. **Case 2011-0401.** A request by Mr. Johnny Fong, of University of Loyola Press, for a Conditional Use Permit. The University of Loyola Press would like to operate a printing press on property zoned as "Village Commercial". This proposed business would be located on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Nauru building. This is Lot 384 in the village of Susupe.
2. **Case 2011-0461.** A request by Ms. Heeroo Gopinath to obtain a Conditional Use Permit to operate a children's day care facility entitled "Bright Minds Day Care" on Lot 002 F 024 in the village of Oleai-San Jose. The site is zoned as "Village Residential". Ms. Gopinath intends to use an existing residential structure for this business. This property is directly north of the San Jose Church between Apengagh Avenue and Tammwoora Avenue.
3. **Case 2011-0497.** A request for a Conditional Use Permit by P & A Corporation to use the former Winners Garment Factory, on Lot 550 New-15, for warehouse and wholesale activities. The site is at the intersection of Afetna Road and Buninas Loop. This is two blocks east of Beach Road in the Village of San Antonio. The property is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
4. **Case 2011-0483.** A request by Mr. Jose R. Lifoifoi, Quad L's Company, to rezone lot #023-D89, and surrounding property, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial". Mr. Lifoifoi wishes to construct an apartment building at the intersection of Saluda Street and Publiko Drive. This is just east of Chalan Pale Arnold Road in lower Navy Hill.
5. **Case 2011-0420.** A request by Mr. Christopher A. Torres, of MEC LLC., to rezone lot #380-BNew-7-1-R1, and surrounding property, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial". Mr. Torres wishes to eventually construct a warehouse and wholesale operation at the intersection of Bakke Street and Tokcha Avenue. This is two blocks east of Beach Road in the village of Susupe.
6. **Case 2011-0604.** A request by Howard Wesner III of Town House Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit, to build a refrigerated warehouse on Lot 023 D 68, Lot 023 D 69, and Tract 22812. This is at the intersection of Pattida Drive and Chalan Pale Arnold Road. Town House Inc. will use the property for wholesaling activities as well as warehousing. The property is zoned as "Mixed Commercial".

D. Old Business.
1. Update on Zoning Office Operations.
2. Revisions to the Zoning Law.
3. Schedule of public outreach efforts.

E. New Business.
1. Office of the Public Auditor - Notice to File a Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2010.
2. HLB 17-26 – Schedule of Special Board hearings for each recommended rezoning in this bill.

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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Request for Administrative Services

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is seeking a Project Assistant to provide **administrative and office support services** for the Board and Project Coordinator to develop and implement a breast and cervical cancer outreach project. The hours are flexible; some weekend and evening work will be required, however.

The Project Assistant must have a valid 2011 CNMI business license and must be ready to begin in April 2011 and work through September 2011.

Compensation is approximately $9-12 per hour, commensurate with experience. Approximately 15-20 hours per week will be required; actual hours per week are variable. In addition, the contractor will be reimbursed for mileage.

For a complete description of the qualifications required and the duties to be performed, call CCA at (670) 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume on or before 5pm on Monday, April 4, 2011 to cca@ccamarianas.org or hand-deliver to the CCA office on the first floor of the Nokalimi Plaza in Garapan.

Paid for by funding from CDC Reach U.S. Program

MVA seeks alternative power for Marpi

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry John P. Tenorio reiterated yesterday his agency's opposition to the installation of power poles in Marpi and recommended an on-site energy source instead for the project.

Tenorio had first informed the project's manager, Stan Good, about MVA's concern about the undertaking in a letter on Dec. 6 last year. Yesterday, Tenorio echoed the same sentiments about the matter.

MVA, he said, is tasked to promote tourism and attract visitors to the island and the installation of the new power poles is of great concern for the agency.

He said the agency is aware that water supply is necessary for the new Marpi cemetery. "However, we would like to request that your office consider the idea of using an on-site energy source instead of the power poles. We believe that an on-site energy source would be able to supply water to the cemetery without scarring the natural beauty of that area," said Tenorio in his letter on Dec. 6.

As a last resort, he said, if traditional power lines must be used, "consider placing them underground to maintain the sanctity of the cemeteries themselves and the natural beauty of the Marpi area in general."

Tenorio said the Marpi area is a prime location for popular tourist sites on Saipan. In fact, he said, nearly all visitors find their way to this natural, beautiful and historic part of the island sometime during their trip. It is also a popular area for off-island mass media to take pictures or shoot films that are then shown in their home countries.

The project has provoked opposition from various groups. An online petition was also launched this week against it.

The Fitial administration said these are not permanent structures and can always be changed when needed, including when alternative power sources become available for the new Marpi public cemetery and the Veterans Cemetery.

The power poles are being put up from the temple to the cemeteries in Marpi to supply power mainly to the two cemeteries.

Cohen to host new public affair series for PBS Guam

MANGILAO, Guam—Accepting President Obama's recent challenge to Americans to improve the civility of their public discourse, PBS Guam will air the series Beer Summit.

Cohen

Hosted by former U.S. Interior deputy assistant secretary David Cohen and featuring distinguished guests—including University of Guam president and former U.S. congressman Robert Underwood—Beer Summit premieres on KGTF-TV Channel 12 on Tuesday, April 5, at 8pm and will assume its regular weekly time slot on Tuesday, April 12, at 7:30pm.

Loosely inspired by President Obama's White House "beer summit" with a Harvard professor and his arresting officer, Beer Summit takes the concept of the news debate program and stands it on its head. The show opens like a typical debate program, with two distinguished guests from opposite perspectives primed to lock horns on a contentious issue: Gay marriage. Abortion. Health care reform. Immigration. The war on terror.

Cohen, an attorney by training, takes on the role of "mediator" by enjoying a cold, non-alcoholic beverage and laughs.

In addition to Underwood, guests during the first season include Travis Coffman, host of "The Big Show" on Sorenson Media Group's K57 Radio; former Bush administration officials Ramona Jones and Juan Carlos Benitez; former Northern Mariana Islands representative Tina Sablan; University of Guam professor Ron McNinch; and local activist Tim Rohr. All of the show's guests are based in Guam or on Saipan.

The show was produced on Guam by Therese Matanane, Grace Garces, and Fred Rodriguez. Greenlight Media Productions, Matanane's and Rodriguez's company, also produced the humorous sequence that opens each show. The set and all-local crew were supplied by Marianas Media.

"Beer Summit shows that the Marianas have very articulate authorities who have excellent insights on issues that concern all Americans," said PBS Guam acting general manager Cathy Gogue. "The show also provides arguments on both sides of important national and international issues so that the viewer can be more educated on the issues that our island and nation are dealing with in today's society." ***(PR)***

Man lands in jail for breaking window

A man was arrested for allegedly breaking the bedroom window of his girlfriend in Tanapag on Sunday night.

Nena Sukuo Langu, 42, was arrested for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace. He was released yesterday on a $500 unsecured bond.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman directed Langu to surrender his passport to the clerk of court.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a patrol officer had responded on Sunday at 8:59pm to an apartment in Tanapag after receiving a disturbance call.

Pangelinan said the officer learned that Langu, who was intoxicated, broke the sliding window of his girlfriend's apartment room and then fled the area. Police later found and arrested him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

34 hospital staff undergo ACLS training

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Thirty-four staff members from the Commonwealth Health Center completed yesterday a two-day advanced cardiac life support training under the supervision of visiting experts from South Dakota Emergency Medical Services for Children.

Advanced cardiac life support, or ACLS, is a protocol for handling patients who are experiencing serious medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest. It also refers to the skills and training necessary to use the protocol safely and properly.

According David A. Boer, program director of South Dakota Emergency Medical Services for Children, the training will help CHC build capacity by certifying more local instructors so it could conduct its own classes in the future.

With him throughout the training was Don Jones, director of Emergency Medical Services Education at Avera McKennan Hospital.

This was Boer's fifth time to conduct an ACLS training on Saipan. The last one was in 2007 when he certified about five medical providers.

Besides the ACLS training, Boer also returns to the island periodically to certify instructors for pediatric advanced life support and other skills.

Majority of the 34 participants who completed the course were doctors and nurses.

An ACLS certificate is good for two years.

Boer described the training as "a lot of work…but very valuable to health providers."

Elaine Camacho said that since obtaining her first full certification in 2009, she has been more knowledgeable about her work. She said the training equips her with the most modern way to effectively and properly care for patients.

"I was able to perform better in my job and know my limitations," she said.

Warren Villagomez, Public Health and Hospital Preparedness Office director, coordinated the training in collaboration with the immunization program. He said there will be another training in December for the next batch.

The principles of ACLS are an expansion on basic life support, which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other simple measures to stabilize a patient until he or she can receive more experienced medical care.

300

From Page 1

He said the estimated 300 FTEs removed are a combination of vacant positions and positions that were included but unfunded in the 2011 budget.

Fitial said streamlining or reducing the number of positions and employees will now be an "alternative" rather than a last resort because of the further drop in revenue, especially considering the impact of the Japan quake and tsunami on the CNMI economy.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said the House leadership has been made aware of and will be considering in its review the estimated 300 FTEs that won't be in the 2012 budget.

Basa reiterated that his committee will immediately work on the 2012 budget once the administration transmits it to the Legislature.

He and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately said yesterday they will work harder to be able to timely pass a new budget and to prevent a partial government shutdown like last year.

Refocusing on Korean market

Fitial and other administration officials met with the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors and managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday to talk about current tourism efforts.

The administration wants to keep Japan as the CNMI's primary tourism market but said it also important to give tourism partners in Japan "time to recover" after a devastating 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami in Japan on March 11, coupled with a nuclear radiation crisis.

"So the governor has tasked MVA to get in touch with key stakeholders in the Korean market to explore a proposal to increase daily flight services in the CNMI," Demapan said.

He said the administration is looking into "calibrating our tourism efforts to Korea in the face of the recent disasters that hit Japan."

Part of the plan, Demapan said, is for MVA and the administration to revisit the law that created the Japan Stabilization Program so that amendments can be proposed in order for the program to shift to providing incentives to travel partners in Korea.

"This would be of utmost assistance to our visitor industry as we look to soften the Commonwealth's economic impact resulting from the disasters in Japan. Once the Japanese market recovers and gets back on track, then the administration will look to re-implement the Japan Stabilization Program," he said.

Under the up to $6.2 million Japan Stabilization Program, travel agents who bring in Japanese tourists from Osaka and Nagoya during months when CNMI arrivals are at their lowest will be given cash incentives.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who oversees government finances, earlier said the impact of the Japan disaster is factored into the 2012 budget.

'Excruciatingly dismal'

Demapan said most of the tourism cancellations "have worked themselves out of the system by now."

He said the administration does "not anticipate significant further cancellations moving forward unless any new nuclear-related developments arise."

There are no estimated dollar figures on the impact of the disasters on arrivals and the economy in general.

The real concern is for the month of April, when "there is almost no activity."

"Undoubtedly, we can expect our figures for April to be excruciatingly dismal. But toward the end of April and into the month of May, we are hoping to start seeing some recovery in the market. However, we cannot ascertain to what extent these figures will improve at this time," Demapan added.

The fiscal year 2012 estimated budget of $120 million is $12 million lower than 2011's $132 million.

Inos earlier said the $120 million may be further lowered, depending on the impact of the Japan disasters on the CNMI economy.

Despite the further drop in revenue, the administration said the work hour cuts now being shouldered by hundreds of government employees will remain at 16 hours per pay period and will not be increased to 20 or more hours.

OVERSTAYERS

From Page 1

Department of Homeland Security, during his visit to Washington, D.C. in February.

"The law has to be enforced," Fitial quoted Mead as saying when he brought up the matter.

Fitial said the overstayers have been competing with local residents for a limited number of jobs.

"These overstayers are creating problems because you know, we used to have a law that once a local is qualified, then a nonresident gets repatriated. How can we repatriate when ICE will not enforce the law?" he said in an interview.

The federal government took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

Fitial said Attorney General Edward Buckingham and Mead are now working on the issue.

The governor also reminded the public that it's a crime to "harbor an illegal [foreigner]."

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), when asked for comment, said the governor's request is a bit surprising.

"He wants the federal agencies to do something he wasn't able to do when the CNMI was still in control of immigration—to deport overstayers?" he asked.

The Fitial administration earlier said they have already given the names of these unemployed foreign workers to DHS officials.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

ment, said that several names of possible delegate candidates have popped up but he can't reveal those names at this time.

He said, though, that Palacios' name is one of those that may be considered.

Tenorio pointed out that the Republican Party has not officially selected anyone yet for a host of reasons, including a lack of a general membership meeting and election of officers, which was supposed to be held in February.

Fitial was re-accepted to the Republican Party in January this year, 10 years after bolting out to form the Covenant Party in 2001.

When asked whether he is also considering running for nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives when his second and last term as governor expires, Fitial said: "I haven't thought about that."

Palacios was the House speaker in the 16th Legislature, and a former Division of Fish and Wildlife director. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said Palacios "may" or "hopefully" have a chance in the 2012 elections.

"There are lots of good, possible Republican candidates," he said.

Tebuteb cited, for example, former Washington resident representative Pete A. Tenorio.

Others asked for comment yesterday said it will be hard to defeat the CNMI's first and re-elected nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

The governor said he does not think so.

Meanwhile, the Covenant Party, which held a meeting last week, also said they will field candidates for the 2012 midterm elections, including a delegate bet.

DPH receives 1,500 new doses of flu vaccines

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health received Monday a new batch of flu vaccines, even as the flu season is now winding down in the Commonwealth.

DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez and Public Health and Hospital Preparedness Office director Warren F. Villagomez said yesterday that the Hawaii Pacific Command's Tripler Army Medical Center turned over 1,500 flu vaccine doses on Monday. The center has been giving out free vaccines to the Pacific region for four years now.

Villagomez

The new batch will be added to the flu vaccines supplied by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in November last year. The CDC provided DPH with 18,000 doses.

The two officials described the additional vaccines as a great help in the department's efforts to vaccinate as many members of the community as possible from the flu virus.

The 1,500 doses will be distributed this week to health centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, including private clinics. Children and adults are the intended beneficiaries of the donation.

According to Warren Villagomez, his office estimates that 30 to 40 percent of the total population have already been vaccinated since January this year. The figure used the base rate of about 30,000 people from the last census for the Commonwealth.

Most the beneficiaries were school-aged children from kindergarten to high school and the vulnerable population that includes those with chronic diseases and pregnant women.

DPH officials assured the safety of the flu vaccines and stressed that getting vaccinated is the single best way to protect against the flu and an important step in minimizing the risk and severity of flu infection.

Health Secretary Villagomez, meantime, said that DPH successfully inoculated about 70 percent of the population from the H1N1 virus.

With the flu season winding down, Secretary Villagomez said the department may not conduct a big vaccination campaign for now and will concentrate on providing the doses to those people who want to avail of it in the hospital.

DPH had its last vaccination drive at the Ada Gymnasium on Feb. 28, during which over 700 community members were inoculated.

Villagomez said that DPH does not expect more vaccines from CDC until the flu season kicks in this September.

"We're right on track and we're above national average in vaccinating and immunizing the community. We're around 85 to 90 percent at present and that's a good number," added the health chief.

As of Feb. 28, over 13,000 shots of the 18,000 available vaccines have already been administered Commonwealth-wide.

CUC eyes $15M USDA financing for projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants to borrow $15 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture so it could work on the remaining requirements of stipulated order 2.

In its March 9 filing with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC rate consultant economists.com said that initial communications with the federal agency have already started.

"CUC has engaged in preliminary discussions with USDA regarding the potential for borrowing $15 million to fund stipulated order and other capital projects. We have held numerous conference calls with USDA officials, and while no decision has been made regarding CUC's eligibility to obtain such funding, we would characterize initial feedback as positive," said the consultant.

The USDA has reportedly advised CUC that it does qualify for funding as a "rural" utility under USDA requirements, although the exact amount needed remains uncertain pending CUC's submission of a formal application.

Economists.com. said that based on the list of projects submitted by CUC in its November testimony, the USDA believes that only some of the projects may qualify for 66 percent financing because the federal agency considers 66 percent of the island of Saipan to be "rural."

CUC's plan, according to the consultant, is to work with USDA to develop a final list of projects that will qualify for 100 percent financing.

For example, CUC already intends to remove the oil pipeline project from the list because it will be funded directly by the ratepayers through the proposed base rate increase in May.

The construction of the oil pipeline has been contracted for $1.8 million. CUC admitted that no funding has been identified for this project yet. EPA requires the project to be done by June 1, 2011.

CUC, at the time of filing, is still compiling its formal application to USDA, which would require an environmental impact statement, comprehensive financial forecast, construction work plan, and comprehensive load forecast, among others. Once the application is sent, it would take time for USDA to approve it.

"What is certain at this time is that CUC will require a minimum of $15 million in outside funding to complete its various capital projects, both for the SO and for other needs as well. CUC cannot hope to successfully complete its application with USDA if it does not have a rate plan in place that will service the expected debt," said the consultant.

This is why, despite the uncertainty, CUC is urging the CPUC to adopt a rate plan that will allow the utilities firm to recover the expected debt service.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Board of Regents
Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Friday, April 1, 2011
11:00am

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Roll Call
   b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS
   a. Presidential Search

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   (At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

V. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Regent Juan T. Lizama, Chairperson, Board of Regents — March 31, 2011 Date

ANDROID
500 PLAN
500 Airtime Minutes
+ FREE Long Distance to US (including Alaska & Hawaii)
Canada, South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, & China
+ FREE In-Coming Calls from any IT&E CNMI
Post-Paid Subscriber!
+ FREE Unlimited Local Text Messaging!
+ FREE Unlimited 3G Android Data!
$59.00*
3G MOBILE HOTSPOT SERVICE
CONNECT UP TO 5 WiFi DEVICES
Superior Wireless Network on 4 Islands
The ONLY Network in the CNMI
that allows DROID to do what
DROID DOES
*Some conditions apply • Must sign up for 2 year agreement • Single Plan ONLY • New Accounts ONLY
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

'Tinian affected by Japan devastation'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The destructive earthquake and tsunami in Japan is already having an impact on Tinian, according to Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz.

"We're heavily affected because they already cancelled the Tinian triathlon because of the disaster and devastation in Japan," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to this year's Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim. About 70 multisport athletes from Japan usually fly to Tinian to participate in this annual triathlon.

Community projects coordinator Frank Tudela of Marianas Visitors Authority, which coordinates the event with main organizer KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, confirmed the deferment of the annual triathlon.

"The organizers deemed it necessary to postpone the Turquoise Blue because of what happened in Japan," he said in a phone interview.

Tudela said the 2011 Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim, originally slated for June 11, is postponed "until further notice."

According to Dela Cruz, they also expect to see a decline in Japanese tourist arrivals on Tinian.

"We're trying to work with whatever we have. What else can we do? We have to be resilient like the Japanese people," he added.

Dela Cruz noted that the Tinian community has also come up with a fundraising drive that aims to assist in the recovery efforts for Japan.

"We're working with the Tinian Chamber of Commerce and all the business people on Tinian to try and generate some concern and interest so that we can try and collect for the recovery of Japan," he said.

Palm reader pledges Japan relief donation

Palm reader and healer Ambrose Pushparaj has joined the CNMI-wide disaster relief efforts for Japan with a pledge to donate the money he will raise from his clients until Friday.

"I see on television the many people who were affected by what happened in Japan. There's no medicine, no water, no bed. They're suffering too much," Pushparaj told *Saipan Tribune.*

He was also motivated to help because of his wife, Cynthia Kogure, who has Japanese blood from her mother's side. "My wife's mother said they have family members in Japan who were affected, too," he said

A native of Bangalore in India, Pushparaj said he started his relief efforts last week by charging his clients $15 instead of his usual $5 fee.

"The $15 that my customers will pay will all be donated to the American Red Cross," he said as he showed the Red Cross tin can where he collects the donation.

Pushparaj will be accepting donations until Friday and will turn over the collected amount on Saturday.

"I hope more people will help the victims who are now suffering in Japan," added the retired Garapan Elementary School teacher.

Visit Pushparaj in his Dandan residence at Buenas Tardis St. right before the Mom and Pops Store or call 288-0634. ***(Clarissa David)***

Resolution honors Manta Ray Band

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has recognized the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band in a resolution that pays tribute to their exemplary achievements that have brought honor to the CNMI.

Authored by Rep. Joseph M. Palacios, House Resolution 17-44 was adopted on Tuesday.

Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band, the only high school musical program in the Commonwealth, has been recognized in the Marianas and around the world for their outstanding performances.

The 42-member band is under the guidance of musical director and band conductor William DeWitt.

The band has already performed in important venues such as the Tumon Bay International Music Festival, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

The Manta Ray Band was also one of only six high school bands across the United States invited to perform at Carnegie Hall on April 17-21, 2010, during the New York International Music Festival, their performance earning them the silver award.

The resolution also congratulates the Manta Ray Band for their superior performance during the 7th Annual Tumon Bay International Music Festival on Guam last March 4 to 13.

The Manta Ray Band emerged as the biggest winner, with the Gold Award in the High School Division, the Command Performance Concert Band, and the Sweepstakes Award, given to the overall highest rated ensemble.

This was the third time for the band to win the Sweepstakes Award.

The group has been invited to perform at the Summer Olympic Games in London, slated from July 27 to Aug. 12, 2012, as part of the Official Olympic Orchestra.

Tinian Dynasty Casino
WELCOME
Weekend Island Get-Away
Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament
Saturday, APRIL 16, 2011 @ 8:00pm
Entry Fee : $50 + $5
Hurry... Limited to 60 seats + alternates only!
Special Room & Airfare Packages available
for Off-island Guests
CREDIT: $0.00
COLLECT
Roulette
POKER
PRESS TO PLAY
VIRTUAL RACING
PRESS TO PLAY
BLACKJACK
Enjoy these games in our latest
Electronic Gaming Machines!
TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL & CASINO
POKER
The Home of Poker
in the Pacific
"Bet with your head, and not over it"
For further information, please call VIP Services at (670) 328-2285
STAR
Marianas Air
SAIPAN / TINIAN CHARTER AVAILABLE 24/7
DISCOVERY FLIGHTS • FLIGHT SEEING TOURS
For inquiries please call (670) 433-9998 / (671) 898-3456 or visit www.starmarianasair.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CRM-062

SUBMISSION: APRIL 15, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SAIPAN LAGOON USE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE CRM FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRM AT (670) 664-8305, OR BY EMAILING ***rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp***

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. RITA C. CHONG AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 05, 2011.**

PUBLIC LAW 15-95 LOCAL PREFERENCE ACT, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118, DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT.

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG**
DIRECTOR, CRM

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 26, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-R-001

"CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAIPAN LEADERSIP MEMORIAL KIOS KU PROJECT, PHASE III"

Proposal packets will be available on March 29, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 8, 2011, at the proposed project site in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, across the U.S. Post Office.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB11-DOF/P&S-043

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 2011 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SALES OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INSPECTION: the government authorized an inspection of the property to determine the true condition of the item(s) to be sold. **Purchaser is cautioned to inspect the item(s) and purchased the item(s) as is, where is.**

/s/ **LARRISA C. LARSON**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Mayor wants compensation for Saipan cockpit board

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores said he is in favor of compensating the five-member Saipan cockpit board.

"I'm hopeful that there will be funding that can be raised or will be available to compensate the board," he said on Tuesday.

Flores disclosed that the board is now officially complete as cocker Antonio T. Salas has formally accepted his appointment.

Salas was appointed by Flores after the mayor's Filipino nominee, a representative of the United Cockers and Breeders Federation of Saipan, neither accepted nor turned down his appointment.

Other board members are Edward Pinaula, Fermin Sakisat, Juan C. Tudela, and John Borja who previously served as chairman back when the board only consisted of three members.

"The board we have now is a good team since they've been cockers for a long time," said Flores.

Now that the Saipan cockpit board is complete, Flores said they will soon put out the announcement for a board meeting for the election of officers and promulgation of rules and regulations in cockfighting.

Compensation for the board members will be discussed during the meeting, he said.

"This issue has to be raised and discussed during the meeting. Also, we have to raise funds for the board because it takes money to organize them and do what they have to do, like publishing meeting announcements for the board," said Flores.

STATE-OF-THE-ART KITCHEN APPLIANCES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam's Food Guy Ken Steward, in blue shirt, donates state-of-the-art kitchen/culinary appliances to Kagman High School's Culinary Arts Class, the pioneering program under the Career Technology and Education Program of the CNMI Public School System. In this photo, class instructor Frank Sablan Jr., left, and his class were joined by acting Education Commissioner Lynette Villagomez and CTE program director Jessica Barcinas-Taylor yesterday. The Culinary Arts Class of KHS, according to Stewart, is making its way to becoming the "best in the Pacific."

Bids for bingo, bato operation licenses now being accepted

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, the Saipan Mayor's Office has issued two invitations to bid for the operation of bingo and bato on Saipan, separate from cockfighting.

"This is the first time that a separate invitation to bid for bingo and bato operations is issued to give a chance to bingo lovers who are not into cockfights to operate their business," said Mayor Donald G. Flores.

The Mayor's Office issued the notices on Tuesday.

In the notice, the bingo license will be valid for five years, commencing on July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2016.

The minimum bid for a bingo license is $10,000 per year, and the successful bidder is required to pay the bid no later than 24 hours after the bid is awarded.

The bingo license is payable on or before July 1 of each year during the five-year bingo license period.

All bids must be accompanied by an application form available at the Mayor's Office and a non-refundable fee of $300 in postal money order, cashier's or certified check, or bank draft.

The minimum bid for a bato license is $2,000 per year, to be accompanied also by an application form and a non-refundable fee of $150.

The bato license is valid for a period of two years, commencing on July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2016.

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the Mayor's Office no later than 3:30 pm on April 14. The bids will be publicly opened on April 15 at 10am.

For more information, call the Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or visit them at Afetna Square Building from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, except on holidays and austerity Fridays.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0014**
vs.	
JOAQUIN S. REYES and MAGDALENA B. SALAS, Defendants.	**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 1, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 011 G 692, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011G14, the original of which was recorded 03 DEC 93 as Document No. 93-4182 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on April 15, 2011, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, March 22, 2011.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff
BANK OF HAWAII

iCONNECT and sun CELLULAR
BRING YOU THE LOWEST RATES
FOR CALLING AND TEXTING THE
PHILIPPINES
Call & Text
SUN CELLULAR
$0.15 /minute
$0.03 /text
using your iConnect SIM
Call & Text
iCONNECT
₱2.00 / minute
with SUN Todo IDD Tawag Load
₱1.00 / text
with SUN CALL & TEXT INTERNATIONAL SIM
Sun Cellular mobile numbers begin with
0922, 0923, 0932,
0933, 0942, 0943.
Rates valid for all iConnect customers. Some conditions apply.
Customer Service: 888-8888 • iconnectsaipan.com
To enjoy P2/min calls to iConnect, simply purchase a Todo IDD Tawag Load card and load it in your SUN SIM card. You may also purchase a Regular Load Card and convert it to Todo IDD Tawag Load by texting TODO IDD50 or TODO IDD100 and send it to 247. Load conversion is available in two denominations: P50 and P100.
No special code or prefix required, just use standard international dialing format to call Guam. The P1/text is an exclusive feature of the Call and Text International SIM card.
Some conditions apply.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fisheries forum on Rota today

The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife will be hosting a fisheries forum on Rota today, March 31, 2011, at the Rota Round House at 6:30pm. The forum will include discussions on the general status of the CNMI fishery, marine protected areas, the Mariana Trench Monument, the proposed visitor's center for the Mariana Trench Monument, and other fishery issues.

Panel speakers will include Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Ignacio T. dela Cruz, Marianne C. Teregeyo, acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and special assistant to the DLNR secretary; Richard Seman, and Jack Ogumoro.

This is a traveling forum and funded by the NOAA NMS as part of the award "Mariana Islands Sanctuary and Scoping Outreach." The next forum will be held on Tinian in May 2011. ***(PR)***

Amateur radio licensing exams today

The next VE session offered by W5YI-VE sponsored by MDX Amateur Radio Club will be held today, March 31, 2011, from 6pm to 8pm, at the training room of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter (Airport Road).

Walk-ins will be accepted, although pre-registration is encouraged. Those in the technician class who want to upgrade their license must bring the original and one photocopy of their FCC license and any applicable CSCEs. A valid ID will also be required. If you do not have a photo ID, bring two ID forms, at least one of which shows your current mailing address. The 2010 exam fee is $ 14 for all elements.

VE's wanting to assist in the exams should bring their VE ID's. Only VE's with valid ID will be allowed inside the examination session. For more information, contact Bong Malasarte (WH0X) at 287-5525 or email at mdx@mdx-radio.net. ***(PR)***

Comments sought on changes to licensing regs

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board is proposing to amend its regulations for physician assistants in the March publication of the *Commonwealth Register*.

The board is soliciting comments about these proposed amendments, which must be received by the board within 30 days of first publication of this notice in the *Commonwealth Register* (March 23, 2011). Interested persons may request copies of the proposed amendments by contacting 664-4809 or by email at bpl@pticom.com or dropping by the office at Bldg. 1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capital Hill, Saipan. Written comments should be drop off at the office, sent by email or sent to the HCPLB, P.O. Box 502078, Saipan, MP 96950. ***(PR)***

Chamorro arts and crafts expert on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, April 2, 2011, the Chamorro talk show program Marianas Agupa will feature Noah Quitugua, a Chamorro arts and craft expert, from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the preservation and knowledge of Chamorro arts and crafts and how to use it to promote the tourism industry.

The program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola, and Tinian correspondent former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

DEQ sets islandwide cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality Monthly Cleanup Brigade is deviating from its regular first Saturday of each month and has scheduled an islandwide cleanup in celebration of the 2011 Environmental Awareness Month.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, register and be a part of the 2011 islandwide cleanup scheduled for Friday, April 15, from 2pm to 4:30pm or Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 8am to 10am or until the route is finished or too tired to move on. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north, south, east and west. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

Call for volunteers for MMAC golf tournament

Volunteers are needed to help pass out water for golfers and spot holes at the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort this Saturday, April 2, 2011, starting at 6am (registration for the tournament begins at 6:30am). Interested volunteers are asked to come to a short orientation the day before the tournament, on Friday, April 1, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort at 4pm. For more information, contact Sia or Betty at 285-4070/1 or the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

The main MMAC event is slated for May 13-14, 2011 at Hopwood Junior High School. For more information about the Marianas March Against Cancer, contact 2011 MMAC chair Dave Guerrero at dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

At Isley Reservoir in Saipan
with affected areas: Portions of As Perdido & Chalan Piao,
Chalan Kanoa District 1, 2, & 3, Susupe & Oleai

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

Water samples for January 2011 showed that 6% percent of turbidity measurements were over 1.0 turbidity units and in February 2011, 13.86% of turbidity measurements were over 1.0 turbidity units – the standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed 1.0 turbidity units per month. The turbidity levels are relatively low. However, their persistence is a concern. Normal turbidity levels at our plant are 0.6 units.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

What is being done?

CUC began operating a Slow Sand Filter to treat rain water collected from the Saipan International Airport Runway in December 2010. The CUC water operators monitor this filtered water daily. At 9:20am on January 27, the CUC Water operators noticed the increasing turbidity levels of the filtered water and stopped serving this water to the public.

The water operators continued to monitor the filtered water's turbidity and when it was consistently below 1.0 turbidity units, the Slow Sand Filtered water was again served to the public on February 16th. However, at 9:30am on February 23, the CUC water operators noticed the increasing turbidity of the filtered water and stopped providing this water to the public.

The CUC water treatment operators performed routine maintenance on the Slow Sand Filter and continue monitoring this water daily. We anticipate releasing the filtered water to the public and resolving the problem by March 11, 2011.

For more information, please contact Heidi Yelin or Mariano Iglecias at (670) 322-5140 or PO Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. State Water System ID#: MP0000001.

Date distributed: 3/29/2011.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 31, 1999

FAS bill a booster to anti-crime efforts, DPS says

The Department of Public Safety has added its voice to the growing support from government agencies over a proposed legislation restricting the stay of Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI, saying it is a step to curb rising crimes involving their nationals on the island. Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram said the bill addresses important "nondiscriminatory issues" affecting citizens from FSM, Palau and Marshalls and their impact on local resources and infrastructure. The department has seen "an increasingly large percent of reported cases committed" by FAS citizens here, eating up a chunk of its operations and budget, he said in a letter to Rep. Melvin Faisao, sponsor of House Bill 11-294 or the Habitual Residency Act.

Longer teaching contract preferred

A proposal to offer a four-year contract to teachers will be heard at the Youth Congress as Speaker Alexis Kosack is scheduled to introduce a bill that will encourage instructors to stay in the CNMI. Kosack said the annual renewal of teaching contracts gives uncertainty to employees who are often intimated to speak out on issues concerning the state of education in the CNMI. "They worry about their jobs every year and are afraid to speak out," she said in an interview. Along with this over a year contract proposal for teachers, she plans to introduce a bill that will encourage for the recruitment of local teachers.

Mar. 31, 2000

Court stops deportation of asylum seekers

U.S. District Court Judge Alex R. Munson blocked yesterday deportation from the CNMI of some foreigners seeking asylum here with an order to maintain status quo on the pending litigation, according to the counsel representing the asylum-seekers. Lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen said his clients Juyel Ahmed, Rui Liang and Liao Da Nian as well as those others he represents for their asylum petition cannot be deported pending resolution of their court cases. "Judge Munson expressly ruled that maintenance of the status quo means that Mr. Ahmed may not be deported from the CNMI next week," he said in his letter to acting Attorney General Herb D. Soll.

ADA complaint vs CPA closed

The Civil Rights Division of the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a final ruling on accessibility issues involving the Saipan Air Traffic Control Tower and the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting building finding the Commonwealth Ports Authority in compliance with existing Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. CPA recently undertook a number of adjustments including the construction of an elevator in response to a complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation involving the Saipan seaport office, the ATCT and the ARFF building in 1992. However, the ports authority argued that portions of the airport tower and the fire fighting facility need not meet ADA specifications since the job or an air traffic controller and fire fighters entail a certain degree of physical capabilities.

Mar. 31, 2003

Tinian University gets temporary license

The State Board of Regents has granted Tinian University a one-year provisional license to offer a postsecondary program. The license, however, restricts the new university from offering credit courses until fall this year when it shall have acquired basic equipment and instruction tools, including library materials and hired faculty. The Board approved TU's provisional license during a board meeting Friday afternoon. TU licensure consultant and former Northern Marianas College president Agnes McPhetres said the provisional license would allow TU to offer noncredit classes now such as English.

'NMC administrators are underpaid'

Northern Marianas College administrators are getting lower wages compared to the median pay that their counterparts are getting in other community colleges in the U.S. Latest statistics presented by NMC president Kenneth Wright during Friday's Board of Regents meeting showed that some NMC administrators would need up to 72-percent increase in their salaries to meet the median. The NMC came up with its own computation based on the 2002 statistics released by the Chronicle of Higher Education, which originated from the reports of 1,444 public and private colleges and universities nationwide.

Apr. Chamber meeting to focus on Japan disaster

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its April general membership meeting on April 6, 2011 at the Pacific Islands Club Hotel in San Antonio, focusing on the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan. Luncheon will begin at 11am, and the meeting will begin at 12pm.

Nick K. Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager, chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and president of the Japan Association, recently returned from Japan and will speak on Japan's recent natural disaster, its effects on Japan's community, the possible effects on Saipan's tourism industry and economic fallout and how it has affected Hyatt's plans for the travel industry.

Yoichi Matsumura, president of Pacific Development Inc. and chairman of the Solicitation Committee for JOIN US HELP JAPAN, a non-profit formed between the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas, HANMI, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the CNMI government, will speak of ongoing disaster relief efforts in the CNMI.

John Hirsch, executive director for the Saipan Chapter of the American Red Cross will present ongoing efforts and perspective by the American Red Cross in Japan, and how residents and businesses can participate in the Red Cross disaster relief fund.

Luncheon is $15 for SCC members and $20 for non-members. ***(SCC)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary at Wing Beach

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at Wing Beach.

On March 24, 2011, around 2pm, the female victim parked her Toyota 4Runner by the concrete posts at Wing Beach. The victim was on the beach when she heard a banging sound coming from her car. She saw a male suspect wearing a dark shirt, with slim build and bushy hair next to her car. She ran toward her car and the suspect fled south, disappearing into the jungle. The victim noticed her rear window broken and her bag containing her LG cell phone missing.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(PR)***

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!

Join us this SATURDAY morning, APRIL 2, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!

LIVE HEALTHY: Life Walk with PSS

Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fisherman Pavilion

Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach

Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field

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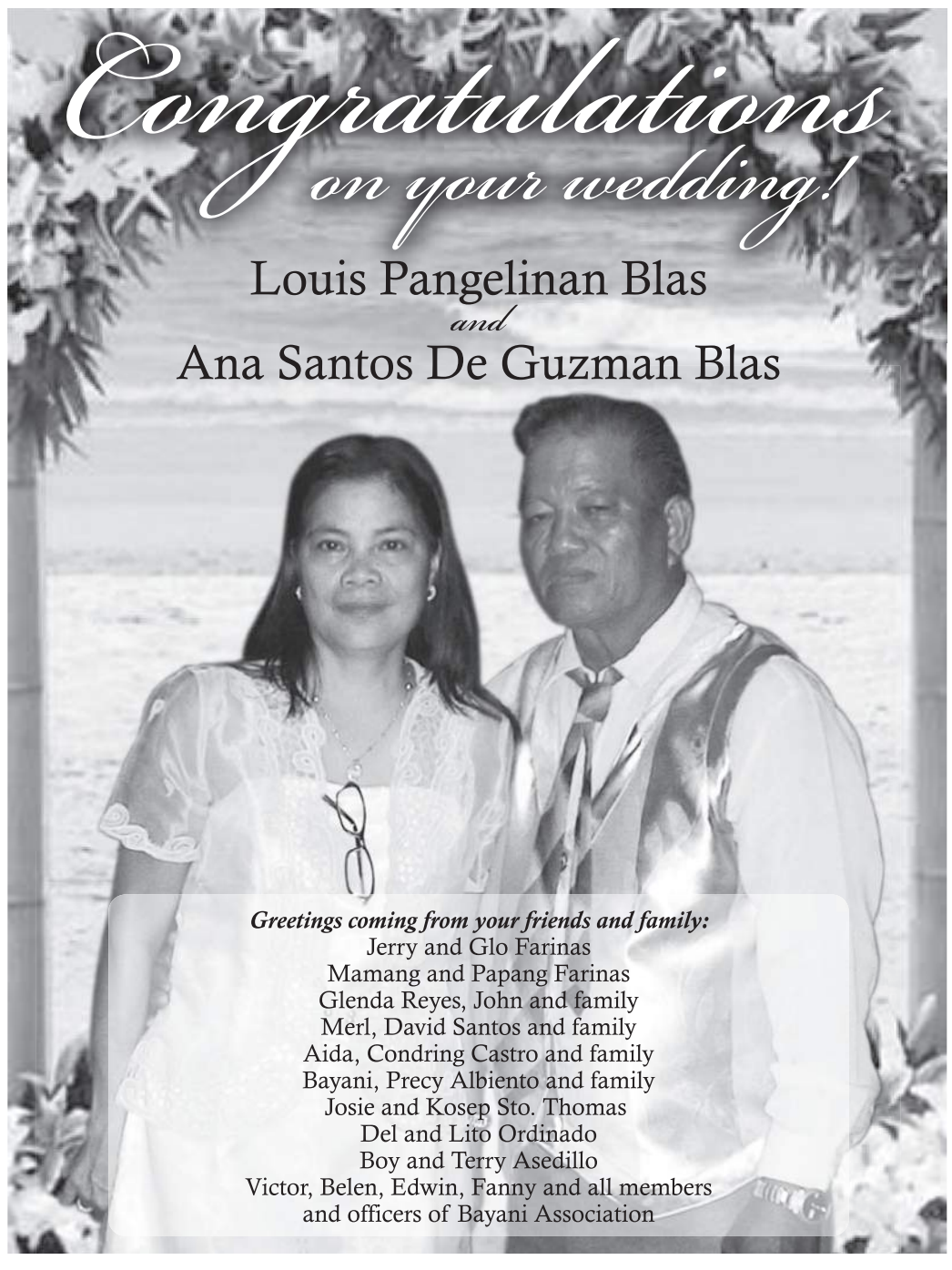

Greetings coming from your friends and family:
Jerry and Glo Farinas
Mamang and Papang Farinas
Glenda Reyes, John and family
Merl, David Santos and family
Aida, Condring Castro and family
Bayani, Precy Albiento and family
Josie and Kosep Sto. Thomas
Del and Lito Ordinado
Boy and Terry Asedillo
Victor, Belen, Edwin, Fanny and all members
and officers of Bayani Association

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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By DIANA WAGMAN
Los Angeles Times

Diana Wagman is the author of the novels Skin Deep, Spontaneous and Bump. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

On way too many screens, the world is falling apart

I came home last week to find my daughter standing on the front porch looking up at the sky. "What are you doing?" I asked.

"Thinking about the radiation plume," she replied.

She's 18, she understands you can't see radiation, but she had been hearing a lot about the invisible particles landing in Los Angeles.

Then there was Libya. I watched on CNN as bombs fell and targets exploded, intercut with the devastation in Japan. It seemed there were bodies everywhere. Later, it felt odd to drive down the street and see people shopping, talking or waiting for the bus, everyone alive.

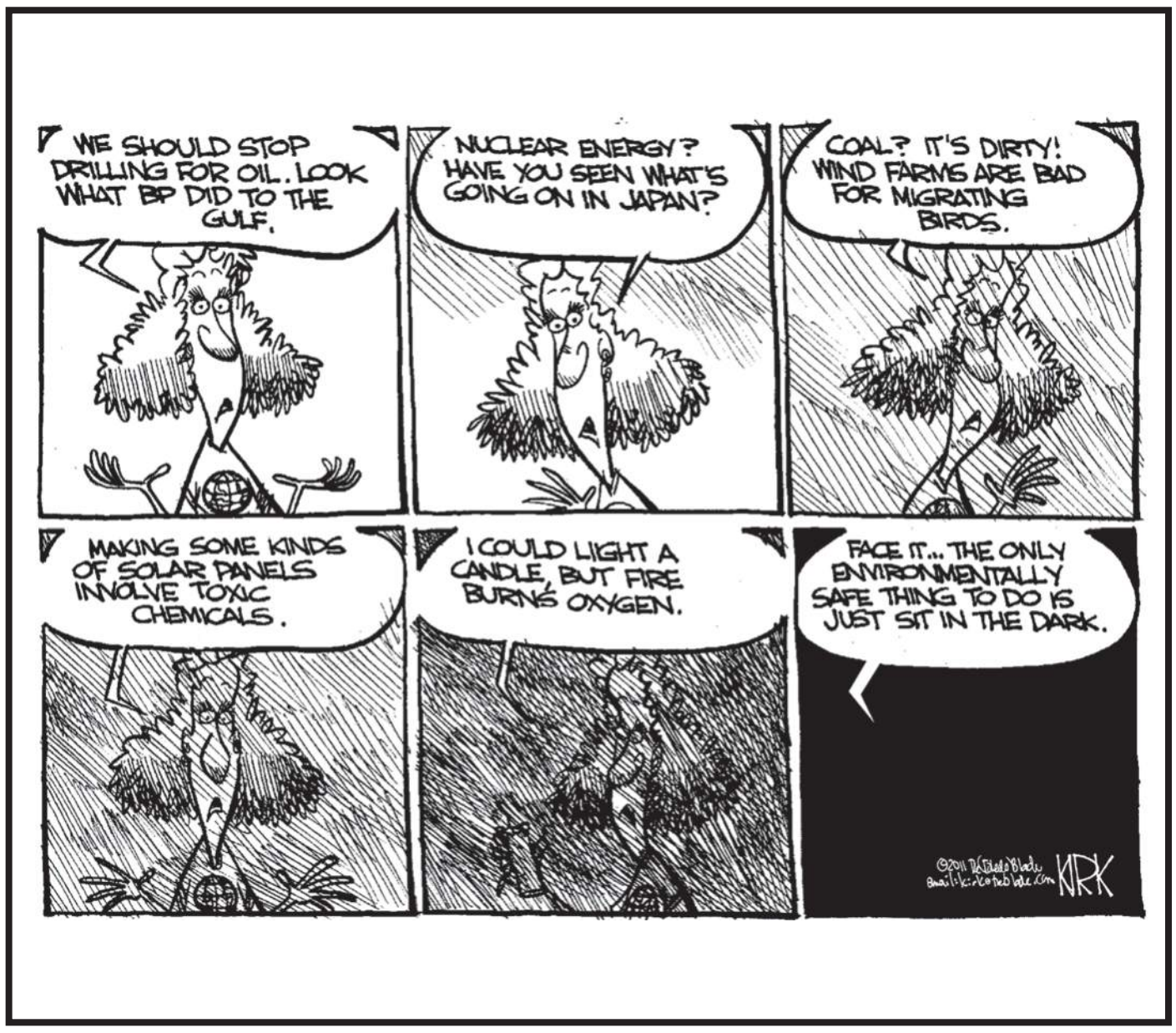
Radiation from Japan—a minute amount of it, at least—has arrived in our backyard. Somehow it makes sense that bombs could fall here too. Nothing seems distant anymore. The Internet gives us satellite images of tsunami wave patterns and radiation plumes as they are happening. We watch live reports, see videos on YouTube, receive tweets from victims and refugees. It is all happening right here, in our living rooms, at our desks and even on our phones. No wonder my daughter is unsettled.

So am I. After the Japanese earthquake, I was bombarded with texts and emails from friends all over the country insisting Los Angeles is next. I found our earthquake kit in the hall closet, handily stored behind the beach towels, sleeping bags and old vacuum cleaner accessories. It had diapers in it! My youngest child is now out of high school, which tells you how long it had been since I looked in that bag. I bought new batteries for the flashlights, a fresh first-aid kit and jugs of water. Our new, improved earthquake kit is now sitting by the front door. I feel more prepared, but every time that duffle bag catches my eye, I'm reminded why it's there and I shiver.

Outside my window I see birds at the birdfeeder and my neighbor washing his car. Inside, on every screen, the world is falling apart. Thousands dead in Japan. Another war in the Middle East. I feel disconnected from both worlds.

Saturday night our power went out and my daughter had her own personal meltdown. We live in an old house, and we can blow a circuit when she plugs in her hairdryer, but this time she screamed and burst into tears. The electricity came back in minutes, and she ran to the radio. Was it an attack of some kind? Was there a disaster we had missed? We were both relieved to hear music and then the disc jockey advertising a future concert. The news came on next, and I turned the radio off. Enough already. We don't need it to tell us again how scary the world is and how very small a place it has become.

I suggested my daughter pick up a book, preferably something from the 19th century, *The Portrait of a Lady* or *Middlemarch*, back when news arrived on horseback, slowly and after the fact, when it was too late to worry about.


WE SHOULD STOP DRILLING FOR OIL. LOOK WHAT BP DID TO THE GULF.
NUCLEAR ENERGY? HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT'S GOING ON IN JAPAN?
COAL? IT'S DIRTY! WIND FARMS ARE BAD FOR MIGRATING BIRDS.
MAKING SOME KINDS OF SOLAR PANELS INVOLVE TOXIC CHEMICALS.
I COULD LIGHT A CANDLE, BUT FIRE BURNS OXYGEN.
FACE IT... THE ONLY ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE THING TO DO IS JUST SIT IN THE DARK.
KIRK

Haven't we learned from history?

By GLENN GARVIN
McClatchy Newspapers

Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. Readers may write to him via e-mail at ggarvin@miamiherald.com.*

A couple of weeks before the United States invaded Iraq in 2003, I was having dinner with an American diplomat who had considerable experience in the Middle East. He warned me that the war would be a long, drawn-out mess.

"You don't think we can defeat Saddam Hussein's army?" I asked in surprise.

"That's the easy part," he replied. "His men will break and run. It's what comes after that that worries me."

Without Saddam's boot on its throat, he warned, Iraq would dissolve into an anarchic hellhole of sectarian religious warfare and ethnic strife, while an ambitious Iran moved to fill the regional power vacuum left behind. In other words, he pretty much predicted everything that has happened in the last eight years.

I didn't go to dinner with any diplomats last week, but nonetheless I was overwhelmed with a sense of deja boob. George W. Bush is no longer president, but you wouldn't know it from the headlong rush toward U.S. military involvement in Libya. President Obama is repeating the same mistake Bush did, jumping into a war in the Middle East without thinking through the end game. And like Bush, he's going to find himself—or, rather, us—mired in a bloody, expensive mess from which there will be no easy extrication.

Like Bush, Obama is very clear about who he wants to get rid of—in this case, Moammar Gadhafi, the murderous eccentric who has ruled Libya since seizing power in a military coup 42 years ago. The plan is to use American firepower to ground Gadhafi's air force, giving an armed rebel force a chance to depose him.

And like Bush, Obama gets a lot vaguer when asked who will replace Gadhafi if the plan works. The word "democracy" gets invoked, warmly and fuzzily, as if things will automatically sort themselves out to everybody's satisfaction once Gadhafi is no longer around to thwart Libya's fundamentally Jeffersonian instincts.

Really? How can anybody who has watched events unfold in Afghanistan and Iraq the past decade think that "democracy" will automatically sprout from the ruins of a war in an authoritarian Middle Eastern country with no historical experience of the concept? Far more likely is that one of the armed factions of the anti-Gadhafi rebels winds up in charge.

Nobody really understands the composition and internal dynamics of that rebel force. It's fractured by ethnic loyalties to the 30 or so major Libyan tribes as well as riddled with both political opportunists who've deserted Gadhafi's government and the same Muslim fanatics whom—in case the Obama White House has forgotten—we're at war with in two other Islamic countries.

Eastern Libya, the center of the anti-Gadhafi insurgency, has been a major breeding ground for Osama bin Laden's forces. An anti-terrorist center at West Point, after studying captured personnel records, concluded that on a per capita basis, no country in the world contributed more fighters to al-Qaeda's operations in Iraq than Libya—and the majority came from the country's east.

So it's not surprising that Abdel-Hakim al-Hasidi, the most prominent of the anti-Gadhafi military commanders, has admitted that he fought against U.S. troops in Afghanistan. In a new world record for speedy political makeovers, Hasidi was an American prisoner for six years after being captured in Pakistan in 2002. Now he's our fair-haired boy, though he retains a certain residual affection for his old cave-mates from Afghanistan. "Members of al-Qaeda are also good Muslims and are fighting against the invader," he told an Italian newspaper recently. And in an interview with The New York Times, Hasidi said that while the Sept. 11 attacks were unfortunate, nobody should forget bin Laden's "good points," presumably including his wish to return the world to the seventh century under fundamentalist Islamic rule.

It's men like this that we are potentially placing in power with Obama's Libyan intervention. The silver lining, if you want to see it that way, is that the intervention may not work. No-fly zones like the one Obama wants to impose can't, by themselves, topple governments. Three U.S. presidential administrations kept a no-fly zone over Iraq in place for 12 years, with American planes flying hundreds of thousands of sorties to enforce it, without dislodging Saddam. Ultimately U.S. troops had to finish the job.

We may be headed for another prolonged standoff, with Gadhafi coiled in the desert like a wounded snake, resuming the efforts he abandoned in 2003 to develop—dare I say it?—weapons of mass destruction. What's that old saying about those who don't learn lessons from history?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Getting more with less

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, life-long learner, and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

I was asked to moderate the edu-tourism sessions at the Economic Restoration Summit last week and there were about 20 people who worked together to come up with a lot of great ideas to build this aspect of tourism. We eventually divided into smaller groups to focus on the top four areas that could really make a positive difference in the CNMI. The big question that most of the participants asked during my session was: Who will be accountable to follow up and ensure that these ideas are implemented?

It was a good question, but I couldn't answer it because once the Summit was over, it was out of our control. We did our part well, and handed it off with the hope that someone will carry the ball across the goal line.

You may find it difficult to concentrate on activities in your personal life because you're constantly bombarded with numerous requests and tasks to do every day, and you may not feel like you're getting much done. There are things in life, though, that you do have control over to ensure that things get done. If you find yourself spinning your wheels a lot, here is an idea to take back control and help you get more done with less time and resources.

Categorize your days into three time frames that allow you to get more done because you'll be able to concentrate and build momentum during each of these days. The three days all start with the letter "f" and they're called your focus day, follow-through day, and free day.

Focus day. On this day your objective is to get results. Think of the most important things you can do to get the most results for the time spent on each activity. In a business, these activities will help you make more money, get more customers, or help your business take a giant leap forward. These are the things that need to get done, but you don't seem to have the time to do them. Don't be tempted to spend time on anything else. On this day, every action you take is focused to move you closer to the completion of your most important activities. Our Summit session was a focus day to come up with innovative ideas to move the CNMI closer to the goal of improving educational tourism.

On this day, you solve problems before they become worse, and you get commitments from others that will move you to the next step. If done properly, you will find yourself getting two to three times more done because you can develop momentum to keep a project moving forward. Start off with at least two focus days each week, and then add more as you become more accomplished so that you're spending more of your time on focus activities.

Follow-through day. The major objective on this day is to reach conclusion with the various tasks started during your focus days. This includes administrative work, committee work, paperwork, and any meetings to help you follow though on your important activities. For a businessperson, this day should be spent handling customer service issues, putting together proposals, writing emails, meeting with vendors, or getting quotes.

As you get better, you will learn to delegate most of these tasks to someone else or outsource them so that you can spend more time doing focus activities. As you learn to better delegate, you should strive to eventually spend less than 25 percent of your time on follow-through activities.

If you have activities that don't fit into your focus or follow-through days, you may consider eliminating or minimizing them. After all, if they don't add value to you in some ways, why should you keep doing them?

Free day. This is the time you need to recuperate and build relationships with important people in your life. On this day you don't think about work or do anything related to work. This is your play day to have fun, spend time on a hobby, play sports, go shopping, or do anything you enjoy. This is a vital day because as the saying goes: "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy."

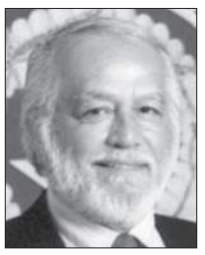
Sunday is my personal free day and I know that on this day I won't do anything related to work. I will work hard to get things done beforehand so it doesn't spill over into Sunday. It's a great time to spend with family or to do things to serve others.

Plan each week to determine which days will be your focus days to get more results, your follow-through days to reach closure on your important activities, and your free days to rest and build relationships. Eventually you'll find that you'll get much more done in less time, and have more fun in the process.

The rape of Marpi

By STANLEY MCGINNIS TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stanley McGinnis Torres is a member of the House of Representatives of the 17th CNMI Legislature.



As I write this, massive high voltage power poles are being erected alongside the Marpi roadways that some 90 percent of our tourists use to access the historic and scenic sights that draw them to Saipan in the first place.

The story is that a big electric pump is needed to bring up water from the aquifer to water the grass at the new cemetery. We have 85 inches of rain a year here and the grass grows pretty well on its own. If the powers that be think they need to water the grass anyway why not do what farmers do all over the world and put up a wind mill? A wind-driven pump would work just fine there as it is often the windiest spot on the island. They are cheap and readily available and don't mar the whole landscape as aboveground power poles and transmission lines do.

The power lines could be placed underground, a standalone generator could be used, a solar power system could be used, a wind generator could be used or a windmill as mentioned above could be used. All but the underground and solar options are cheaper than aboveground transmission lines. If electric power is really needed there why spend huge sums of money to do it wrong?

Are we raping the visual environment of our last remaining natural tourist sites just so we can use some of the ill-gotten "free" money the U.S. tempts us with? If they gave us 30 million to poison our drinking water, would we use it? If they said build a road or a ponding basin where the Susupe Cathedral is now, would we do it? Where do we draw the line with the "free" money provided by the feds?

Here is my fear: The size of the poles being installed tells me they may not be erected to power a water pump and a light in the men's room. These poles are the big ones used to run high voltage, high-tension power lines. That tells me there may be a larger behind-the-scenes plan involved. What is it?

If the plan is to electrify Marpi for future commercial development then we need to draw a line on the sand and protect that line with every thing we have or else see Saipan turn into the featureless sprawl found elsewhere that tourists avoid like the plague.

If the plan is to develop homesteads on that or on nearby property, then I will remove my name from the no-poles petition and myself from the fight to stop the electrification project. If that is the case, the answer needs to be provided by those NMDs qualified to receive homestead land, not by me alone or by non-NMDs no matter how proper we think our motives are. But if the real reason for doing this is to develop homesteads, why not disclose that to the public now? This is a time for truthful disclosure, not for hidden agendas.

So to recap: if the project is really to water the cemetery then *stop* the aboveground power poles *now*! Do it responsibly using an alternative method. If it is for some other reason then disclose that reason *now* so we—the stakeholders, voters, legislators, and residents—can make appropriate judgments and recommendations.

Obama's nuanced call to arms in Libya

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

The Obama administration says the goals of its bombing campaign in Libya are crystal clear, but it has tied itself in knots trying to explain them.

This isn't a war, White House spokesman Jay Carney said last week, "it's a time-limited, scope-limited military action."

"What we are doing is enforcing a (United Nations) resolution that has a very clear set of goals, which is protecting the Libyan people, averting a humanitarian crisis and setting up a no-fly zone," said national security aide Ben Rhodes. "Obviously that involves kinetic military action, particularly on the front end. But ... we are not getting into an open-ended war, a land invasion in Libya."

Clear enough for you?

In fact, Rhodes' explanation was clearer than it sounds—because it showed where the administration's well of clarity runs dry.

Here's the problem: President Obama's strategy is clear, but only for the short term—the days, not weeks, he allotted for U.S.-led airstrikes to stop Moammar Gadhafi's army from overrunning rebel-held cities.

But that's only an immediate, tactical goal—a stopgap.

After that? Not so clear.

Some officials are candid enough to acknowledge that. "It's very uncertain on how this ends," Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said last week.

Obama does have a long-term goal in Libya: He'd like to see Gadhafi fall and be replaced by a democratic regime. But he hasn't settled on a strategy to get there.

Officials hoped the air raids might cause the collapse of Gadhafi's regime, perhaps by prompting some of the dictator's military officers to turn on him. They still hope the combination of a no-fly zone, economic sanctions and the rebellion in eastern Libya will undermine Gadhafi over time.

But in one point of clarity, Obama and his aides say it will have to happen without U.S. military involvement on the ground. On that count, they are clearer about what they won't do—"a land invasion in Libya"—than what they will.

One reason for the muddled message is the minor diplomatic deception behind the U.N. Security Council resolution that authorized the airstrikes. The Security Council approved military action to protect civilians, not to help rebels overthrow Gadhafi. The United States and its allies interpreted the mandate broadly enough to include attacks on Gadhafi's headquarters under the category of "protecting civilians." Both Russia, a member of the Security Council, and Turkey, a member of NATO, promptly caught on and complained.

That explains the tortuous, legalistic rhetoric from those poor White House spokesmen. As George Orwell wrote in his great 1946 essay, "Politics and the English Language," "When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns ... to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish spurting out ink."

But the problem runs deeper than public relations or even diplomacy. By joining France and Britain in attacking Gadhafi's army, Obama has launched the United States into a limited war—and limited wars often turn into long-term headaches.

They take longer than expected. They have unforeseen consequences. And, if they fall short of their goals, they tempt policymakers to escalate far beyond their original intentions.

The likeliest danger Obama faces in Libya, paradoxically, is success at achieving the immediate goal of protecting civilians. If the airstrikes prompt Gadhafi to disengage his troops but don't push him out of power, we will be the part-owners of a no-fly, no-drive zone in the middle of a tribal civil war. Our last no-fly zone, over Iraq, started the same way, when Saddam Hussein's troops were pushed out of Kuwait under a U.N. resolution that didn't authorize his removal from power. That one lasted 12 years and ended with a ground invasion.

And if Gadhafi's ground troops grind down the disorganized rebels without using aircraft or tanks, will the United States, Britain and France stand by and allow it? That won't be easy to watch; the Obama administration would probably be wracked by the same kind of debate that led to its last decision to intervene.

Obama may be a reluctant warrior, but we're starting to see a pattern. He ran for office as an antiwar candidate, but he extended his own deadline for withdrawal from Iraq. He reluctantly sent thousands of new troops to Afghanistan, then promised that the U.S. military commitment there would extend through 2014. Now he has launched a new intervention in Libya—after initial reluctance, again.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney accused Obama last week of being "tentative, indecisive, timid and nuanced." Timid? Hardly. But Romney is right on one count: Obama is sending troops into battle to the call of a very nuanced trumpet.

That doesn't mean that the decision to intervene was wrong. As White House aides point out, if the United States and its allies hadn't launched this operation, we'd probably be reading about massacres right now.

But it does mean that Obama still has hard decisions to make. What's the long-term goal, and what is he willing to risk achieving it? If Gadhafi clings to power, what will Obama do to make good on his declaration that the dictator must go? Those are the most important questions, and in addressing them, he has offered precious little clarity.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

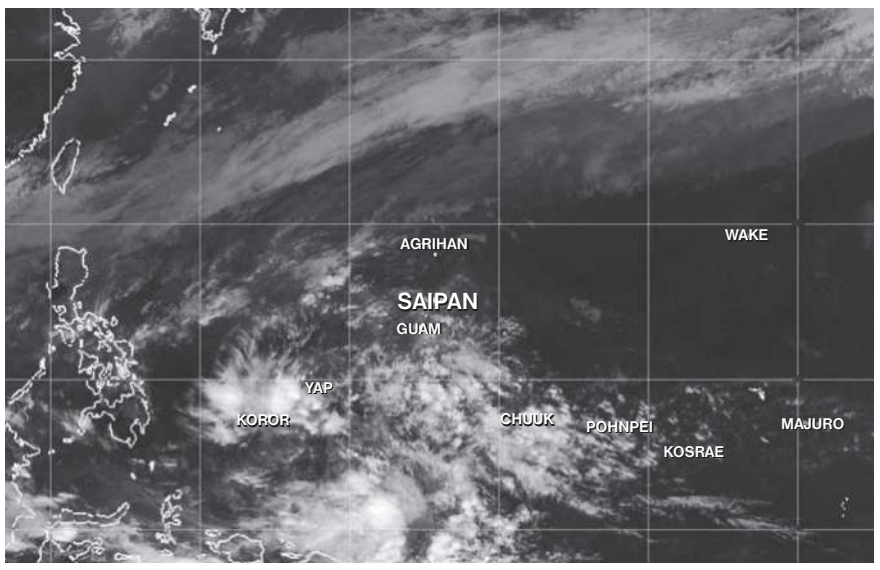
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲88	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲73	▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼47
Hong Kong	Showers	▲68	▼63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼71
London	Showers	▲57	▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼38
Osaka	Sunny	▲60	▼44
Paris	Showers	▲64	▼53
Pusan	Sunny	▲63	▼50
Rome	Sunny	▲69	▼48
Salem	Showers	▲58	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲62	▼39
Tokyo	Showers	▲58	▼42
Washington, DC	Ice	▲38	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N147E to south of Iwo To island at about 21N141E to finally end beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found within 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from 4N130E through a broad circulation centered southeast of Koror at 7N136E then southeastward to end southwest of Chuuk at 4N148E. Another trough extends from the center of the circulation northward to the shear line at 21N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found around Yap and Koror between the equator and 16N from 133E to 143E. Trade wind convergence east of the circulation is producing scattered showers over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 5N and 10N from 148E to 162E and east of Guam within 80 miles of a line from 10N150E to 13N146E. Scattered trade-wind showers are occurring around Kwajalein and Majuro between 2N and 10N from 162E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
5:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:48 AM	3:52 PM
Friday	4:24 AM	4:39 PM
Saturday	4:59 AM	5:25 PM
Sunday	5:35 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:59 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
CO9313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
CO9313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
CO9603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
CO9603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

CNMI builds local capacity for suicide intervention

The Community Guidance Center of the Department of Public Health recently conducted training on suicide intervention to help build capacity for suicide prevention. This training for certification was held for two sets of two days at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.

The workshop, called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training or ASIST, began on March 15 and continued through March 18, 2011.

LivingWorks ASIST certified trainers from Guam that included Rebecca Respicio of the Division of Youth Affairs and Michelle Sasamoto of the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse collaborated with the CNMI's LivingWorks ASIST certified trainers Rebecca Robles, Tobacco Program coordinator, and Jennifer Maratita, Clinical Services manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Training participants show off their certificates after completing the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, hosted by the Community Guidance Center of the Department of Public Health at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort on March 15 to 18, 2011.

This training was made possible through the Substance Abuse and Prevention Grant and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Prevention and Training Branch of Guam that was held earlier this year to promote suicide prevention efforts in the Micronesian region.

According to LivingWorks Education, the ASIST training is the most widely used, acclaimed, and researched suicide intervention skills training in the world. The benefits of the ASIST T4T, is that the community receives local trainers that can train additional caregivers on how to respond and help someone with suicidal thoughts or may be attempting suicide.

The CNMI's Community Guidance Center is currently taking significant steps toward increasing community-based collaboration that will result in more successful suicide prevention activities and early intervention efforts. Current plans include more ASIST certification trainings to various agencies and members of the community throughout the year.

The Community Guidance Center previously held three trainings last year and 50 more community members are now ASIST trained, making a total of 110 people certified through this partnership of Saipan and Guam. ***(PR)***

Ichikawa's body was cremated upon arrival in Japan

» Lack of autopsy hampers Japan police's probe

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The body of Kiyohisa Ichikawa was cremated upon arrival in Japan, hampering the Japanese police's investigation into his reported drowning at Obyan Beach on Saipan in 2006.

Quoting last week's article in a Japanese newspaper, *The Chunichi Shimbun*, a Saipan-based Japanese interpreter told *Saipan Tribune* that the Gifu Prefecture police started investigating the death of Ichikawa in response to a report filed by insurance company Tokio Marine.

The interpreter said the Gifu Prefecture police reportedly experienced difficulties in their investigation because there was no autopsy conducted as the body was cremated upon return to Japan.

This, the interpreter said, has left investigators with "little evidence."

The Department of Public Safety confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that no autopsy was conducted on Ichikawa's body in the CNMI.

DPS spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said the autopsy was not done because then chief prosecutor Jefferey Warfield Sr. had issued a memorandum, saying that no autopsy would be required.

An autopsy determines a person's death.

Blas said a Boating Safety investigator told him on Tuesday that Warfield made the decision after reviewing reports submitted by DPS Boating Safety investigators.

The investigators, he said, had concluded that Ichikawa died of drowning and the case was then closed.

The Gifu District Court in Japan last week had determined that Ichikawa was possibly murdered in order for his two traveling companions to collect 100 million yen in insurance.

The interpreter said the Japan court had found out that the companions were the supposedly de facto recipients of the insurance policy.

The court had concluded that Tokio Marine does not have to pay the insurance money the deceased's parents were claiming in a civil lawsuit.

The companions, the court said, had control of the deceased's parents' bank accounts.

Saipan Tribune files indicate that Ichikawa drowned at Obyan Beach on June 27, 2006, and that he had two companions when the incident happened.

The following day, DPS reportedly upon Warfield's authorization, released the victim and his belongings to the victim's next of kin.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Bright Minds Day & Night Care

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this Conditional Use Application. Ms. Heeroo Gopinath would like to operate a Day Care Facility on a property zoned as "Village Residential". The proposed business activity on Lot #002 F 24 in Oleai-San Jose village would convert an existing residential structure for this new use. The property is directly north of the San Jose Church between Apengagh Avenue and Tammwoora Avenue.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6 , 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
University of Loyola Press

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. Mr. Johnny Fong would like to operate a printing press on a property zoned as Village Commercial. This proposed business would be located on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe on lot #384.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
P & A Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use Application. Mr. Kim, Hong Kyun would like to operate apartment space rental, hydroponic crop farming, agriculture food processing (import/export), lumber mill, and construction materials sales on a property zoned as "Mixed Commercial." The proposed business operations would be operated in an existing prefabricated steel structure buildings formerly occupied by Winners Garment Factory, situated on Lot 550 NEW-15 in Afetna, Saipan.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6 , 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Business

Airlines struggle to quantify the effects of Japan disaster

By TERRY MAXON
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS—The experience of US Airways Inc. offers a good reason why airline executives are still struggling to figure out the impact of the Japan crisis on their business.

US Airways President Scott Kirby said last week that his carrier's advance bookings were up 2 percent to 3 percent leading up to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. But in the immediate aftermath, bookings fell 20 percent.

What makes US Airways' example so striking is that US Airways doesn't fly to Japan. In fact, it doesn't fly to Asia at all.

"I think it's a psychological effect more than anything from the earthquake, the tsunami in Japan and the following nuclear crisis that has unfolded across time," said Kirby, speaking at a JPMorgan conference in New York City.

For airlines that do fly to Japan and Asia, the monetary impact may be deep, at least in the short term. Delta Air Lines Inc. President Ed Bastian estimated that between March 11 and March 31, the Japan troubles will reduce that carrier's revenue by $50 million.

For the full year, Delta is looking at a reduction in revenue of $250 million to $400 million, said Bastian, speaking at the JPMorgan conference.

"Our view on Japan is that resiliency will see its way through," Bastian said.

Delta expects to see "some fairly significant drop-off" in demand and bookings over the next two or three months, he said.

But after that, Delta expects that "there is going to be a fairly significant demand pickup over the balance of the year" as the country rebuilds and the government pours money to boost the Japanese economy, Bastian said.

"So our expectations at the present time is that this is somewhere between a six- to nine-month, one-time event," he said.

Bastian noted that about 8 percent of Delta's system revenue touches Tokyo. "That's a little over $2 billion a year that we have that we generate out of the Tokyo market," he said.

In 2010, 13 percent of Delta's capacity, or 26.2 billion available seat miles—one airplane seat flown one mile—was deployed to Asian routes including Japan.

For the short term, Delta plans to cut its capacity to Japan by 15 percent to 20 percent through May, "and then we're going to monitor how demand comes back," Bastian said.

United Continental Holdings Inc. has an even bigger Asian system than Delta. United Airlines Inc. and Continental Airlines Inc. combined flew 37.8 billion available seat miles across the Pacific last year, or 17.2 percent of their total capacity.

Jeff Smisek, United Continental's president and chief executive, outlined no capacity cutbacks when he spoke at the conference last week.

"Clearly with what's happened in the tragedy in Japan, we'll be taking a look at the appropriate adjustments that we'll need to make as a result of that," he said.

The timing probably could not be worse for the third-biggest U.S. player in the U.S.-Japan market, Fort Worth-based American Airlines Inc., which launches its trans-Pacific joint venture with Japan Airlines on Friday.

Kenji Hashimoto, American's vice president for strategic alliances, said last week that American is continuing to run its current schedule while it and alliance partner Japan Airlines see how the crisis has affected passenger demand.

"The loads are a little different East vs. West," Hashimoto said. "They're a bit heavier coming out of Japan, a bit lighter going into Japan. We're looking at all that."

As part of that, American is reviewing what happened to business after recent earthquakes in Santiago, Chile, and Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

What complicates the issue for American is that about half its customers between the U.S. and Japan are catching connecting flights in Tokyo to other points in Japan and throughout Asia, Hashimoto said.

He added that it's "a bit too early" to know when demand might return to previous levels.

"We're seeing the differential in the load factors, eastbound and westbound, so clearly there is some demand effect in the short term," Hashimoto said. "But it's unclear how the long term effect will play out over time."

One blessing for American is that its Pacific system is the smallest of three U.S. carriers that fly between the U.S. mainland and Japan.

In 2010, American operated 7.4 billion available seat miles to Japan, one-fifth the size of the United Continental network and only 5 percent of American's total capacity last year.

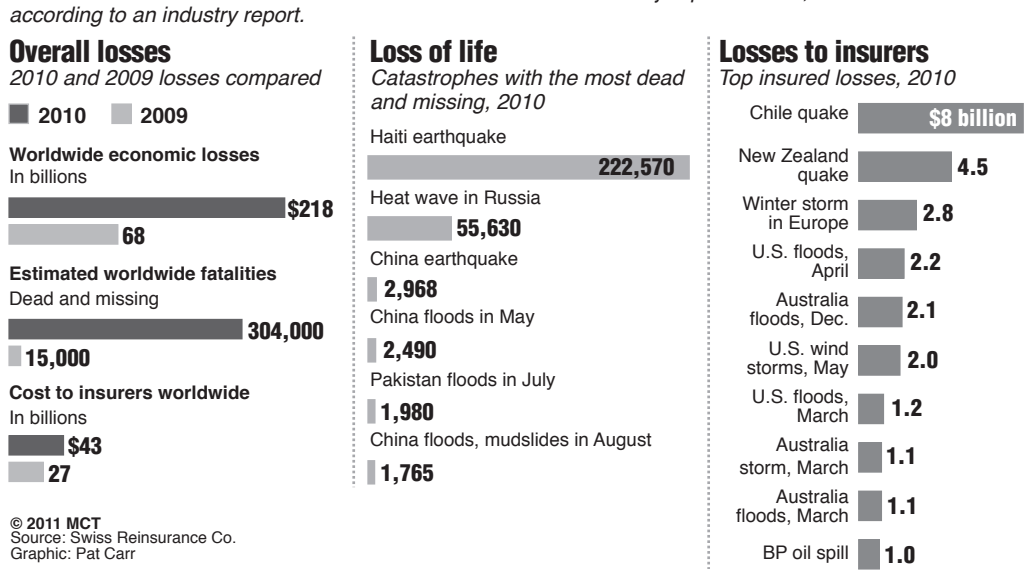
In the wake of the earthquake, several analysts have revised their earnings downward for Delta and American.

Airline analyst Michael Linenberg of Deutsche Bank cut his profit estimate for Delta from $1.30 a share, or about $1.1 billion, in 2011, to $1.10, or about $930 million.

"In our view, Delta is the most impacted of any U.S. airline from the Japanese earthquake," Linenberg wrote in a note last week. "As such, the company faces more downside risk to its numbers than its competitors, which we feel has been more than adequately discounted by its underperforming share price."

Cost of disasters

The human and economic costs of natural and man-made disasters jumped in 2010, according to an industry report.



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Graphic: Pat Carr

Nation

US sending robots, operators to Japan to help nuclear plant

By MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government is sending some robotic help to Japan to help regain control of the tsunami-damaged nuclear plant.

A top Energy Department official told a Senate panel Tuesday that a shipment of "radiation hardened robotics" will be sent to Japan to assist in the crisis. A department spokeswoman said a robotic device from the Energy Department's Idaho National Laboratory is being shipped to Japan along with several radiation-hardened cameras.

Peter Lyons, an acting assistant energy secretary, said Japanese officials were "very, very interested" in learning more about the capabilities of U.S robots. The United States is also sending robot operators who would be used to train Japanese operators, Lyons said.

Robots with electronics built to withstand radiation could presumably work in areas where radiation levels would harm or even kill a person. Workers at the stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi plant have been exposed to high levels of radiation and burned.

Stephanie Mueller, a spokeswoman for the Energy Department, said remote-controlled robotic machines have been used to conduct environmental cleanup and other activities in contaminated environments, although not at a compromised nuclear reactor such as the ones in Japan.

The device being shipped to Japan is equipped to provide visuals, radiological surveys and mapping data in areas of the plant that are not accessible to humans due to potential elevated radiation levels that are above recommended safety guidelines.

In addition to the robots, the Energy Department has sent about 40 employees and more than 17,000 pounds of equipment to Japan, Lyons said.

Population near ground zero doubles

NEW YORK (AP)—After the Sept. 11 attacks, there were grim questions about the future of the shaken, dust-covered neighborhoods around the World Trade Center. Would residents flee uptown or to the suburbs? Would the epic job of rebuilding lower Manhattan be too much to bear? Who would want to live so close to a place associated with such horror?

As it turns out, plenty of folks.

Census figures released last week show that the number of people living near ground zero has swelled by about 23,000 since 2000, making it one of the fastest-growing places in the city.

AP

This April 20, 2010 file photo shows New York's lower Manhattan from the air. After the 9/11 attacks, there were grim predictions about the future of the shaken, dust-covered neighborhoods around the World Trade Center.

Virginia Lam, a publicist and former City Hall operative who moved into a newly converted residential building on Wall Street in 2006, said the site is a source of inspiration, rather than fear or gloom.

"It's pretty amazing," she said of the new towers rising from the 16-acre hole created by the attacks. "I feel like, being a New Yorker who was here on 9/11, and who has worked for the Fire Department and for the city, I think it is always in the back of my mind, but it's not something that dominates my thinking. I go about living my life."

About 45,750 people now live in the part of Manhattan south of Chambers Street, which encompasses ground zero. That is more than twice as many as there were during the last census.

9 dead after IV infections at 6 Ala. hospitals

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Nine Alabama hospital patients who were treated with intravenous feeding bags contaminated with bacteria have died and the maker has pulled the product off the market, state health officials said Tuesday.

Ten others who got the nutrient treatments that are delivered directly from the plastic bags into the bloodstream through IV tubes also were sickened by the outbreak of serratia marcescens bacteria, health officials said. All the patients were critically ill before receiving the IVs and officials have not definitively tied the deaths to the outbreak at six hospitals, State Health Officer Donald Williamson said.

"There is nothing to suggest the deaths were directly related to the bacterial infection," said Williamson who declined to give details on the patients including their ages and illnesses.

On March 16, two hospitals reported increased cases of serratia marcescens to the Alabama Department of Public Health. Officials linked the infection to TPN, a common nutritional supplement delivered through IVs.

A single pharmacy, Birmingham-based Meds IV, made the bags. Williamson said the company has notified its customers of the contamination, has discontinued production and was being very cooperative.

"We wouldn't be nearly as far along as we are without them," said Williamson.

Calls to Meds IV and its owner seeking comment were not returned.

Meds IV is registered to Edward Cingoranelli, who appears to have been involved in at least three other medical supply companies, according to the Alabama Secretary of State's office. Meds IV was incorporated two weeks after one of the other firms.

When Select Specialty Hospital in Birmingham learned one of its suppliers may have distributed bags containing the bacteria, it started investigating and stopped using Meds IV products, said the hospital's chief executive officer. Other hospitals also immediately stopped using the products.

Asia

Biggest spike in radiation at Japan power plant

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Seawater outside the hobbled nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan was found to contain 3,335 times the usual amount of radioactive iodine—the highest rate yet and a sign that more contaminated water was making its way into the ocean, officials said Wednesday.

The amount of iodine-131 found offshore some 300 yards (meters) south of the coastal Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant does not pose an immediate threat to human health but was a "concern," said Hidehiko Nishiyama, a Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency official. He said there was no fishing in the area.

"We will nail down the cause, and will do our utmost to prevent it from rising further," Nishiyama said.

The power plant has been leaking radiation since a March 11 tsunami slammed into Japan's northeast, knocking out power and backup systems crucial to keeping temperatures down inside the plant's reactors.

Residents within 12 miles (20 kilometers) have been evacuated, while those up to 19 miles (30 kilometers) have been urged to leave as radiation has made its way into vegetables, raw milk and water. Last week, tap water as far away as Tokyo, 140 miles (220 kilometers) to the south, contained levels of cancer-causing iodine-131 considered unsafe for infants.

The latest findings—based on a sample taken Tuesday—highlight the urgency of stabilizing the crippled power plant. The mission has been fraught with setbacks, as emergency crews have dealt with fires, explosions and radiation scares in the frantic bid to prevent a complete meltdown.

The government acknowledged Tuesday that its safeguards had been insufficient to protect the facility against the magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami.

"Our preparedness was not sufficient," Chief Cabinet secretary Yukio Edano told reporters Tuesday. "When the current crisis is over, we must examine the accident closely and thoroughly review" the safety standards.

An Associated Press investigation found that Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials had dismissed scientific evidence and geological history that indicated that a massive earthquake—and subsequent tsunami—was far more likely than they believed.

AP/AIR PHOTO SERVICE

In this March 24, 2011 aerial photo taken by a small unmanned drone and released by AIR PHOTO SERVICE, damaged Unit 3, left, and Unit 4 of the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant are seen in Okumamachi, Fukushima prefecture, northern Japan.

China executes 3 Filipino drug mules

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government said China executed three Filipinos convicted of drug smuggling Wednesday despite last-minute appeals for clemency and political concessions by the country's leaders.

Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, 32, and Ramon Credo, 42, met their families for the last time early Wednesday before they were put to death by lethal injection in Xiamen, said Philippine Consul Noel Novicio. Elizabeth Batain, 38, was allowed to meet with her relatives hours ahead of her execution in Shenzhen, Novicio said.

The three were not aware they would be executed Wednesday although their sentences were promulgated early in the day, Novicio said. It was the first time that Filipino nationals were executed in China.

China normally does not announce executions. Amnesty International says China is the world's biggest executioner, with thousands of convicts killed every year. The Philippines has abolished the death penalty.

"They already gave us (her) things. It's too much, they gave us only one hour (with her). They have no mercy," Ordinario-Villanueva's sister, Maylene Ordinario, said in a text message from Xiamen to her family in the Philippines.

She said that her sister was blessed by a priest and "she said she wants to be forgiven for all her sins but she insisted that she was a victim."

"She asked us to take care of her children, to take care of each other and to help one another. I have not accepted what will happen. We are forcing ourselves to accept it but I can't," she told Manila radio station DZBB.

The three were arrested separately in 2008 carrying packages containing at least 8 pounds (4 kilograms) of heroin. They were convicted and sentenced in 2009.

In its appeals for clemency, which included three letters by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to his Chinese counterpart and a February visit to Beijing by the vice president that prompted China to postpone the executions by a month, the government said it was able to prove that a drug syndicate took advantage of the Filipinos. It said that Philippine authorities succeeded in identifying and arresting some members of the syndicate.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Officials: Indonesian suspect captured in Pakistan

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A senior Indonesian al-Qaida terror suspect wanted in the 2002 Bali bombings has been arrested in Pakistan, regional intelligence sources said Tuesday, in a major scalp for the international campaign against Islamist extremists. Few details were released about the arrest of Umar Patek, but it appeared to be the result of cross-border cooperation in the fight against terrorism. After the 9/11 attacks, several top al-Qaida operatives were arrested in Pakistan, but in recent years there have been few known high-profile arrests. Umar Patek, a suspected member of the al-Qaida linked militant group Jemaah Islamiyah, is believed to have served as the group's deputy field commander in the nightclub bombings that left 202 people dead, many of them foreigners. The U.S., which lost seven citizens in the attack, was offering a $1 million reward for his arrest.

Philippine general accused of massive graft freed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine senators have freed from five days of detention a retired general who they accused of faking illness to skip last week's hearing on a military corruption scandal. The Senate's Blue Ribbon committee cited retired Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot and his wife in contempt and had him detained at the Senate building late Thursday after the couple said they were ill and skipped that day's hearing. A doctor later told the irate lawmakers the two were strong enough to attend. Ligot and his wife attended the Senate hearing Tuesday to explain they were really sick last week. They promised to cooperate in a probe on alleged massive military graft. They denied any wrongdoing and refused to answer questions in detail.

Wife says rights activist is charged in China

BEIJING (AP)—The wife of a Chinese human rights activist says police have filed subversion charges against her husband in the latest move against dissent since anonymous online calls urged people in China to imitate pro-democracy protests in North Africa and the Middle East. Wang Xiaoyan, the wife of Chen Wei, said Wednesday that she received a notice the previous day saying her husband had been formally arrested by police in Suining city in southwestern Sichuan province for inciting subversion of state power. The charges come after the wife of blogger and writer Ran Yunfei said she received a notice Monday saying subversion charges had been filed against her husband.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES

CORPORATION – ELECTRIC DIVISION **DOCKET 09-1**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 10:00 a.m. on April 11, 2011, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission *[Commission]* will conduct a public hearing at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room[1] Capitol Hill, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on proposed rate adjustments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] electric rates.

1. **CUC amended petition for electric base rate adjustments.**

The Commission will examine CUC's November 10, 2010 petition for base rate relief, as amended on December 8, 2010, February 9, 2011 and March 9, 2011, which request that effective on May 11, 2011 its electric base rate revenues *[which does not include fuel revenue, as discussed below]* be increased on an annualized basis by about 44% from $19.9 million to $28.7 million dollars. CUC proposes that this additional revenue be produced by rate increases, which would be assessed on its three customer classes *[residential, commercial and government]* in the manner set forth in its public notice, as published in the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* on March 11, 2011. CUC asserts that this increased base revenue is just, reasonable and necessary to enable it to comply with: a] the statutory mandate that it bill and collect adequate rate revenue to recover the costs associated with the operation and delivery of electric service, including financial reserves and b] the requirements of the Federal Stipulated Order dated March 11, 2009, in *USA v. CUC and CNMI*.

CUC's petition, as amended, is supported by testimony and documentary evidence, which is available for public review at its administrative office on the 3rd floor, Joeten Dandan Building and at its Tinian and Rota offices. The Commission has tasked its independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown] to investigate, review and submit testimony on CUC's petition, as amended. Georgetown's report will be filed with the Commission on March 25, 2011 and will then be available for public review at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya, Attorney for Georgetown Consulting, and at CUC's offices, as identified above.

2. **LEAC Rate and collateral matters.**

Pursuant to a tariff established by regulatory order on December 19, 2008, the Commission reviews and approves the semi-annual LEAC *[levelized energy adjustment clause]* rate, which CUC is authorized to charge its electric customers to recover its projected fuel and related expenses during the period. CUC's LEAC rate is separate from its base rates, which are intended to fund its non-fuel operational and capital expenses. By transmission dated March 21, 2011, CUC and Georgetown have recommended that for the period May 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, the current LEAC rate of $0.28125 cents per kWh should be increased to $0.30852 cents per kWh *[a 9.6 percent increase].* On or before March 22, 2011, CUC and Georgetown will file a joint report, which will document this joint recommendation and which will also reconcile projected versus actual fuel expenses incurred by CUC in prior LEAC periods and will recommend appropriate adjustments in order to keep LEAC charge revenue neutral. The March 22, 2011 joint LEAC report will be available for public inspection at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya, Attorney for Georgetown Consulting, and at CUC's administrative offices.

At the public hearing, the Commission will also consider CUC and Georgetown's positions with regard to CUC's November 10, 2010 petition for regulatory approval of a proposed fifth change order to CUC's contract with Telesource CNMI, Inc. for operation of CUC's Tinian power generation facilities. Georgetown's January 24, 2011 analysis of this petition is available for public inspection at the Law Office Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya, Attorney for Georgetown Consulting. In its analysis, Georgetown asserts that the proposed change order is not necessary, prudent or cost-beneficial to CUC's electric customers and should, therefore, be denied.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at its April 11, 2011 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before March 31, 2011 file with the Commission at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will schedule, notice and conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Robert T. Torres at 670-234-7859.

[1] The public's attention is called to the fact that this hearing location is a change from the location identified in CUC's March 11, 2011 public notice.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen kill 56 in grisly Iraq hostage siege

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gunmen wearing military uniforms over explosives belts charged into a government building in Saddam Hussein's hometown Tuesday in an attack that left 56 people dead, including 15 hostages who were shot execution-style. The five-hour standoff in Tikrit ended only when the attackers blew themselves up in one of the bloodiest days in Iraq this year. American troops who were nearby as part of an advising mission with Iraqi forces responded to the attack, and some U.S. soldiers received minor wounds, said military spokesman Col. Barry Johnson. The U.S. troops dropped back after Iraqi forces took control, Johnson said.

Syria offers concessions amid wave of unrest

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar Assad fired his Cabinet on Tuesday and promised to end widely despised emergency laws—concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East. The overtures, while largely symbolic, are a moment of rare compromise in the Assad family's 40 years of iron-fisted rule. They came as the government mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters in rallies in the capital and elsewhere, in an effort to show it has wide popular backing. Nearly every aspect of Syrian society is monitored and controlled by the security forces, and the feared secret police crush even the smallest rumblings of opposition. Draconian laws have all but eradicated civil liberties and political freedoms.

'Baby Doc' Duvalier leaves hospital in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier was discharged Tuesday from a hospital in the country's capital where he was examined and treated for chest pains. Duvalier, known as "Baby Doc," shuffled unsteadily out the back door of the Canape Vert Hospital in a dark blue suit, shaking hands and waving at several dozen cheering supporters, mostly older men who served in the military or government under the former "president for life." "Since Jean-Claude Duvalier left the country has lost its values," said Wilson Alba, 58, who saluted Duvalier as police officers escorted him to a waiting car. The 59-year-old ex-dictator was admitted to the hospital Wednesday after complaining of chest pains. Family friends and associates have declined to discuss details of his health condition.

Hugo Chavez, journalism award-winner in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Hugo Chavez, winner of a journalism award? The Venezuelan leader regularly clashes with critical media, but Argentina's University of La Plata was giving him its Rodolfo Walsh Prize on Tuesday "for his unquestionable and authentic commitment" to giving people without a voice access to the airwaves and newspapers. Chavez has bankrolled the growth of the Telesur network, providing a state-funded alternative to privately financed broadcast stations across Latin America. He has a sure ally in Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, who sees privately owned media groups as a bigger threat to freedom of expression than state control of airwaves or newsprint.

Libya rebels flee Gadhafi assault as world debates

By RYAN LUCAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, heavy smoke rises over the Tajoura area, some 30 km east of Tripoli, Libya, after an airstrike on Tuesday March 29, 2011.

RAS LANOUF, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's forces hammered rebels with tanks and rockets, turning their rapid advance into a panicked retreat in an hourslong battle Tuesday. The fighting underscored the dilemma facing the U.S. and its allies in Libya: Rebels may be unable to oust Gadhafi militarily unless already contentious international airstrikes go even further in taking out his forces.

Opposition fighters pleaded for strikes as they fled the hamlet of Bin Jawwad, where artillery shells crashed thunderously, raising plumes of smoke. No such strikes were launched during the fighting, and some rebels shouted, "Sarkozy, where are you?"—a reference to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, one of the strongest supporters of using air power against Gadhafi.

Reports overnight indicated that the rebels were in flight from Brega and Ras Lanouf.

World leaders meeting in London agreed that Gadhafi should step down but have yet to decide what additional pressure to put on him.

"Gadhafi has lost the legitimacy to lead, so we believe he must go. We're working with the international community to try to achieve that outcome," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told reporters after the talks concluded.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said it "has to be made very clear to Gadhafi: His time is over." But Germany and other countries have expressed reservations about the current military intervention in Libya, let alone expanding it.

France has struck a more forceful tone. Defense Minister Gerard Longuet told France-Inter radio that Paris and London believe that the campaign "must obtain more" than the end of shooting at civilians.

The rout of the rebels Tuesday illustrated how much they rely on international air power. Only a day earlier, they had been storming westward in hopes of taking Sirte, Gadhafi's hometown and a bastion of his support in central Libya. They reached within 60 miles (100 kilometers) of the city before they were hit by the onslaught from Gadhafi's forces, driving them back east to Bin Jawwad under barrages of rocket and tank fire.

Many of the ragtag, untrained volunteers who make up the bulk of the rebel forces fled in a panicked scramble. However, some of them backed by special forces soldiers from military units that joined the rebellion took a stand in Bin Jawwad, bringing up truck-mounted rocket launchers of their own and returning fire.

The two sides traded salvos for hours, drilling Bin Jawwad's buildings with shrapnel and bullet holes. The steady drum of heavy machine gun fire and the pop of small arms could be heard above the din as people less than a mile (a kilometer) outside the village scaled mounds of dirt to watch the fighting.

But by the afternoon, rebels fled further east, their cars and trucks filling both lanes of the desert highway as they retreated to and even beyond the oil port of Ras Lanouf, roughly 25 miles (40 kilometers) away. Some loyalist forces had reached the outskirts of Ras Lanouf, where the thud of heavy weapons was heard and black smoke rose from buildings.

"If they keep shelling like this, we'll need airstrikes," said Mohammed Bujildein, a 27-year-old rebel fighter. He was gnawing on a loaf of bread in a pickup truck with a mounted anti-aircraft gun, waiting to fill up from an abandoned gas tanker truck on the eastern side of Ras Lanouf.

With international strikes, he boasted, "we'll be in Sirte tomorrow evening."

"This today is a loss, but hopefully we'll get it back," he said.

It was the second time in weeks that rebel forces have been driven back from an attempted assault on Sirte. The last time, early in the month, it nearly meant the end of their movement: They retreated hundreds of miles (kilometers) west and Gadhafi forces nearly stormed their capital, Benghazi, until the U.S. and European strikes began 10 days ago, driving Gadhafi's forces back from bloody sieges.

Even proponents of the international campaign have been wary of going further by effectively providing air cover for rebels who are now trying to go on the offensive and march through Gadhafi-controlled territory to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, to end his more than 41 years in power.

With the possibility of a prolonged military deadlock looming, 40 foreign ministers, Clinton, the heads of NATO and the U.N. and representatives from the Arab League met in London to decide how to help Libya into a post-Gadhafi future.

British Prime Minister David Cameron acknowledged that "the Libyan people cannot reach that future on their own. ... We are all here in one united purpose, that is to help the Libyan people in their hour of need."

Clinton said the international community must support calls for democracy sweeping Libya and its neighbors, but warned that "these goals are not easily achieved." U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice said there are plenty of "non-military means at our disposal" to oust the Libyan leader.

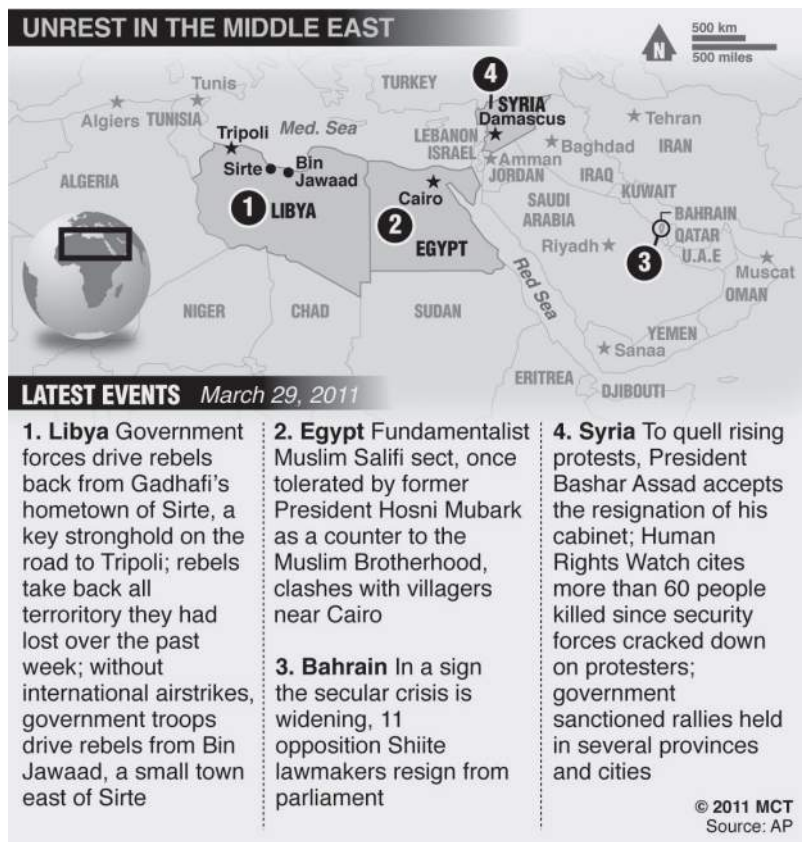
Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini pushed a plan for a cease-fire, exile for Gadhafi and a framework for talks on Libya's future between tribal leaders and opposition figures. He said negotiations on securing his exit were being conducted with "absolute discretion," though he said there could be no promise of immunity for Gadhafi from international prosecution. So far, Gadhafi has shown little sign he might choose exile, vowing to fight to the end.

Cameron and Sarkozy urged Gadhafi loyalists to seize a final chance to abandon him and side with those seeking political reform—effectively pinning hopes on a palace coup.

As for the possibility of giving arms to the heavily outgunned rebels, Clinton said the U.S. has made no decision, and British Foreign Secretary William Hague said the subject simply did not come up at Tuesday's meeting.

Representatives of the opposition's political leadership, the Interim National Council, met Tuesday with Clinton and Hague but did not attend the main conference.

Mahmoud Shammam, a council spokesman, suggested Libyans were prepared to fight their own battle. Though the international community had a responsibility to prevent "mass genocide," he told reporters, "We are not asking for any non-Libyan to come and change the regime."



Focus

AP

In this July 7, 2010, file photo, a man runs past Samsung Electronics Co.'s mobile phone Galaxy S advertisement outside its head office in Seoul, South Korea.

Developing economies' lead over rivals poses risks

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The world's biggest economies are recovering from the Great Recession at troublesome speeds: too fast or too slow.

China, India and other major developing countries quickly returned to breakneck rates of growth after escaping the worst of the economic downturn in 2008 and 2009. Their rapid recoveries showed for the first time that emerging economies have grown big and strong enough to thrive independently while the United States and other rich countries struggle.

And today, to an unprecedented degree, the developing world is driving the global recovery, instead of relying on the United States for economic leadership as it used to. This picture emerges from The Associated Press' new Global Economy Tracker, a quarterly analysis of 22 countries that account for more than 80 percent of the world's economic output.

The shakeup in the world's economic order has taken 30 years. The developing world's share of global economic output has risen from 18 percent in 1980 to 26 percent last year, the World Bank says. So growth in emerging markets now has a far bigger effect on the world's economic performance.

Leading the transformation is China, an economic backwater three decades ago that last year replaced Japan as the world's second-biggest economy. Japan, after more than a decade of stagnation, is struggling again in the aftermath of the earthquake and nuclear disaster that struck earlier this month.

Rapid growth in emerging economies has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and created vast consumer markets for U.S. goods and services. At the same time, "this two-track world poses some unusual risks," warns Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University. He and others fear that too much money flowing to developing economies is driving up commodity prices and inflating dangerous bubbles in emerging market stocks and housing prices.

Rapid growth in the developing world is also pulling jobs and investment from the United States and other rich countries. And it's fanning international disputes over trade and currencies.

The AP Global Economy Tracker found that:

■ The fastest-growing countries—China, India, Indonesia—are all in the developing world. The slowest are all European: Spain, Italy and Britain. The United States ranks 12th among the 20 largest economies plus Argentina and South Africa.

■ Speedy growth is triggering inflation in emerging countries. The countries where consumer prices rose the most last year were Argentina, India and Russia.

■ High unemployment is plaguing rich countries. At the end of 2010, unemployment was more than 20 percent in Spain, 9.6 percent in the European Union as a whole and 9.4 percent in the United States. (The U.S. rate fell to 9 percent in January and 8.9 percent in February). In contrast, the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in Brazil.

In the past, the developing world depended on advanced economies—particularly the United States—to generate global growth, which trickled down to them when the rich countries bought their exports. And when rich countries faltered, poorer ones suffered too.

"The conventional wisdom was when we went into recession, they went into recession," says Robert Lawrence, professor of trade policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

The Great Recession overturned the old relationship. Emerging economies dodged the housing crisis that froze credit markets in the United States and Europe and threw the rich world into the worst downturn since the 1930s. Developing countries just kept growing, though more slowly.

They never had to bail out their banks or endure the high unemployment and stagnant growth that historically follow financial crises. India's heavily regulated banks never made disastrous bets on the U.S. subprime mortgage market.

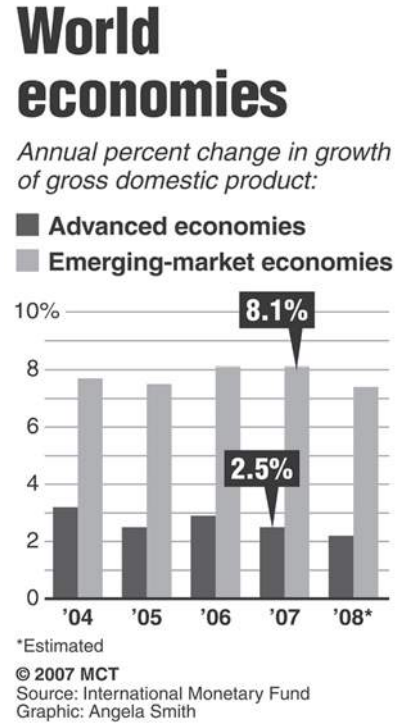
Neither did China's, which are almost all owned by the government. As fear paralyzed financial markets in the rich world, Beijing simply ordered state-run banks to keep lending to support the Chinese economy. And they did, unleashing more than $1.4 trillion in new loans in 2009 alone—a year when bank lending fell in the United States.

In 2009, developing countries continued to expand, eking out 2.6 percent growth, while rich economies shrank 3.4 percent. Last year, developing countries grew 7.1 percent, rich ones 3 percent. And this year the International Monetary Fund expects developing countries to outgrow the rich world 6.5 percent to 2.5 percent.

Japan's wealthy economy faces new uncertainty after the quake and a tsunami devastated the country's northeastern coastline and raised the threat of radioactive contamination at a damaged nuclear plant.

The World Bank says developing economies accounted for 45 percent of global growth last year, the first full year since recession ended in June 2009. They contributed just 14 percent of worldwide growth in the first full year after the deep 1981-82 recession, 11 percent after the 1990-91 recession and 38 percent after the 2001 recession, World Bank numbers show.

Rich countries continue to lag because of their devastating financial crisis. Their banks are still writing off bad debts. Their governments are saddled with gaping deficits—the result of shrunken tax revenue, the cost of bailing out banking systems, rising health care costs and the need to stimulate their economies. U.S. consumers are still paying the bills they charged up during the mid-2000s debt binge.



Nearly 14 million Americans are unemployed, 1.8 million of them for two years or more. They're people like John Dail Galvin, who lost a computer specialist job at a health care company in December 2008. Galvin, 48, has burned through savings and unemployment benefits. He says he's facing a foreclosure on his house in McHenry, Ill.

"I've been working since I was 15 years old," he says. "I've never seen it this bad."

Britain, Ireland and Spain have cut spending, raised taxes or both to narrow budget gaps. The United States, slowed by a budget deficit that could reach a record $1.65 trillion this year, is debating its own spending cuts. The World Bank warns that austerity measures will trim 0.7 percentage points from growth in rich countries this year and 0.4 percentage points in 2012.

Unburdened by a financial crisis, China, India and other developing countries resumed fast growth as they continued their transition from agricultural to industrial economies. In fact, they're now generating their own growth instead of relying on exports to the rich world. The World Bank says, for example, that internal demand—including business investments, government programs and consumer spending—accounted for 80 percent of China's growth last year.

"The emergence of a huge middle class in both China and India is generating internal demand," says Lawrence, co-author of the forthcoming book "Rising Tide: Is Growth in Emerging Markets Good for the United States?"

An example, in the southern Chinese city of Dongguan, is Xu Maolin, 31. Working as a mid-level manager at a factory that makes medical equipment, auto parts and aircraft components, Xu earns more than $7,200 a year—a middle-class living in a country where the per-capita income is $3,650.

A decade ago, Xu left a poor farm village in central China for a job at the Dongguan factory at $100 a month. His wife and two children live in a house he bought in his home village. He also owns an apartment in Dongguan that he rents to other migrant workers.

Xu has an air-conditioned room to himself in the factory dormitory. After work, he logs onto his desktop computer to read news, download movies and chat with friends and family.

For all its benefits, fast growth is causing problems for China and other developing countries. Surging demand for commodities—oil, grain, steel—is pushing prices ever higher. Inflation is running near 5 percent in China, over 9 percent in India and near 11 percent in Argentina, AP's Global Economy Tracker found. Inflation in the United States was just 1.9 percent last year.

"I don't feel I'm any better off than, say, last year," says Li, a waiter in Beijing who would give only his surname. "My salary might have gone up a little bit this year. But the prices of everything just went up like crazy."

The developing world's financial markets are drawing cash from rich countries. The U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks have pushed interest rates to record-low levels to stimulate their sluggish economies.

As investors in search of higher returns snap up Asian stocks and real estate, they risk creating dangerous asset bubbles. To cool speculative fever, policymakers from Bangkok to Brasilia have been imposing taxes on foreign investors and raising interest rates. In January, Brazil's central bank raised its rate for overnight lending from 10.75 percent to 11.25 percent. In the U.S., the rate is only about 0.15 percent.

China and other developing countries could fight inflation by letting their currencies rise rapidly—a move that would drive down the price of imported goods. But they are reluctant to do so because stronger currencies would make their own exports more expensive and less competitive in other countries. China is especially resistant to sacrificing exports by letting its currency, the yuan, appreciate quickly. Exports account for about 30 percent of China's economic output, versus about 11 percent of the U.S. economy.

Congress has threatened to impose tariffs on Chinese goods if China won't relent on its currency. The threats are raising fears of a trade rift between the world's two biggest economies.

U.S. heavy-equipment maker Caterpillar says it frets that the divide between fast- and slow-growing countries is eroding the cooperation that served international policymaking at the depths of the recession. Caterpillar, which generates 68 percent of its revenue overseas, warns that a global recovery could be derailed by disputes over trade and currency.

The growth gap between emerging economies and developed nations may even be feeding on itself: U.S. companies are shifting jobs overseas to take advantage of cheaper labor and to be closer to their fastest-growing markets. Between 1999 and 2008, U.S. multinationals slashed 1.1 million jobs in the United States and added 2.4 million overseas, including more than 520,000 in China alone, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Consider General Motors. Last year, for the first time, GM sold more vehicles in China than in the United States. But 99 percent of the 2.35 million vehicles GM sold in China were made in Chinese factories by Chinese workers; just 11,796 were made in the United States.

Environment

Tackling a devil of a problem

By JULIE CART
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOBART, Australia—It would appear to be one heck of a public relations challenge: Persuade the Australian public to care about a seldom-seen animal the size of a cocker spaniel, beady-eyed, standoffish and fond of displaying a mouthful of pointy teeth. Picture a skunk, with the jaws of an alligator and the charm of a weasel.

From a marketing standpoint, the Tasmanian devil is no koala.

But the pugnacious carnivore needs help. Scientists across Australia are working to untangle the genetic puzzle behind a fatal disease decimating the world's largest carnivorous marsupial. The affliction is straight out of a sci-fi movie: Tumors sprout around the devil's mouth, quickly morphing into bulbous red pustules that eventually take over the animal's entire face, leaving it unable to eat or drink.

Alarmed by the threat to a species already in danger of extinction, wildlife biologists here began tracking the disease 15 years ago. Early on, the scientists identified how it spread: through facial bites when devils fight or mate. The disease had all the characteristics of a virus. But last year geneticists made a sobering discovery: Devil facial tumor disease, or DFTD, was no virus, but a highly infectious cancer—one of only three communicable cancers known to medicine.

That breakthrough piqued the interest of scientists. Though researchers say it is unlikely that humans could become infected with DFTD, the knowledge gleaned in research across Australia could prove invaluable should an infectious cancer appear among people.

The name Tasmanian devil conjures up images of the Looney Tunes character, a slightly daft and clumsy creature that does little more than whirl and slobber.

Yet, in ways that surprise even themselves, Australians are rallying around this nasty, screeching beast that once was the most reviled animal in the country. There are foods and wines branded with the devil's likeness; bars and coffee shop signs feature caricatures of a snarling devil, as does the official logo of the Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service. Schoolchildren study the creature and a visit to a devil sanctuary is a standard day trip for cruise ship passengers disembarking in Hobart.

Even if relatively few Australians have taken the time to see a Tasmanian devil at a zoo, and even fewer have spied one in the bush, they are getting the message: It may be a devil, but it's our devil.

They're "a little Aussie fighter," suggested Kathy Belov, a molecular geneticist at the University of Sydney working to save the marsupial. "There's something really adorable about little devils," she said.

There's also this. Wildlife stewards in Australia's island state of Tasmania have at least one biological crime to atone for: Conservationists worldwide haven't forgiven officials here for allowing the world's last remaining thylacine—the Tasmanian tiger—to die in a concrete cell in Hobart Zoo in 1936.

Wildlife officials have created a "Devil Ark," dispatching small groups of uninfected devils to zoos and sanctuaries around the state and mainland to establish an insurance population and stave off extinction. Researchers believe that without this massive intervention, wild devils could be gone in five years. Already, 90 percent of the known Tasmanian devil population is lost.

"No one, politicians to scientists, wants to lose the devil on their watch," Belov said.

"Everyone is really desperate to make sure it doesn't happen."

Greg Irons strode briskly past the low-walled enclosures at the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, trailing a ragtag parade: Grandpa, the elderly kangaroo he picked up on the way out of the front office; Mavis, the plump wombat, who insisted on being carried; and young Sam, here with his father to get a close look at a real Tasmanian devil.

JULIE CART/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Greg Irons, director of the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, is a passionate defender of Tasmanian Devils. He's raising 16 devils that are free of the fatal Devil Facial Tumor Disease. The disease has killed 90 percent of devils in the wild.

"Wicked! That's awesome," the boy yelled, watching four devils amble around their pen. "Dad! Get a picture!"

Irons, director of the wildlife sanctuary carved into a hillside north of Hobart, is raising 16 devils in quarantine free from cancer. The goal is to prepare them to become part of Australia's insurance population, living in wildlife sanctuaries. Bonorong is one of the few facilities in the country where devils can be observed up close.

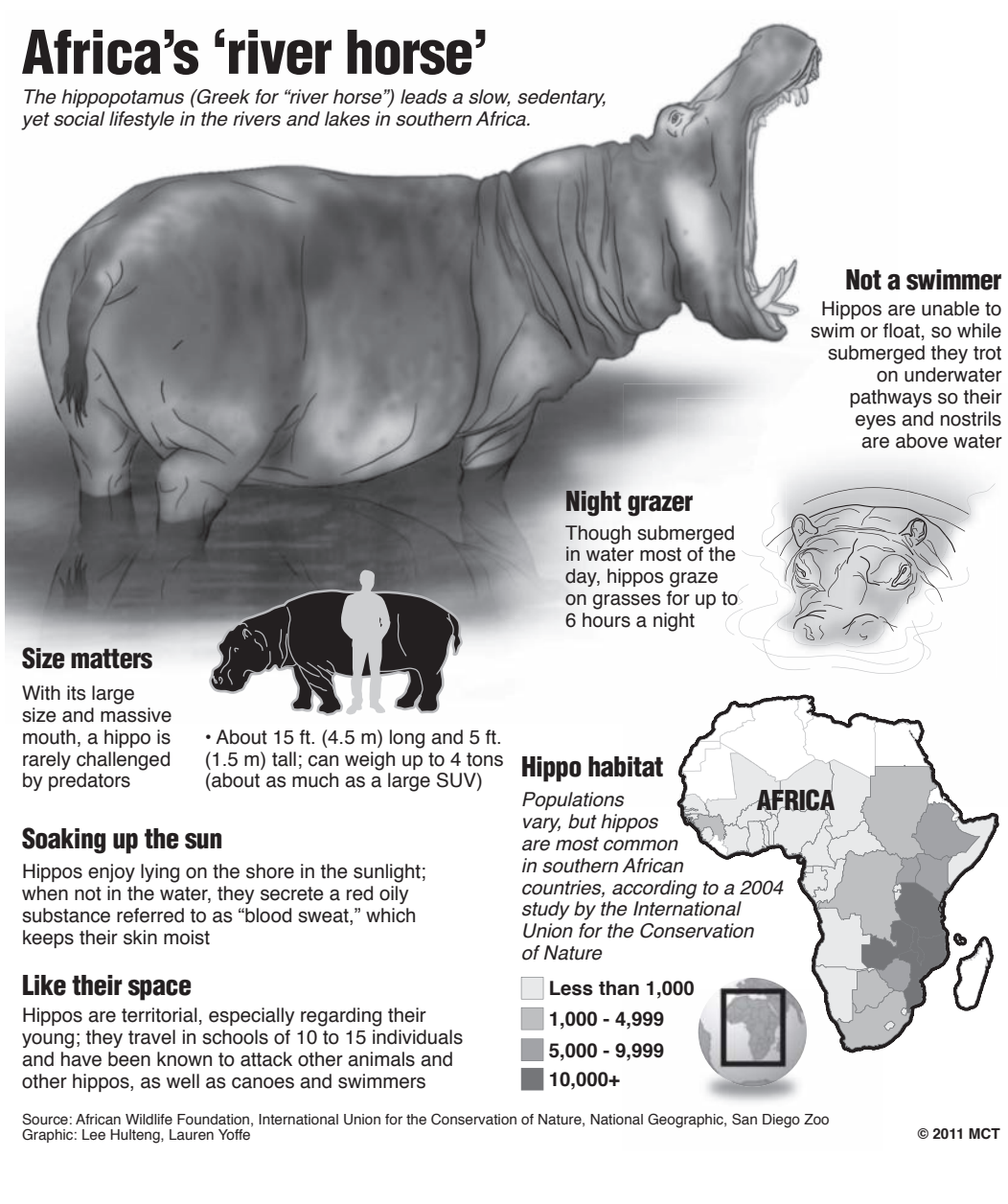
The affable Irons, 27, may be the devil's most ardent champion. He laughed as he watched four pudgy pups—Donny, Pee Wee, Millie and Chopper—chase one another, and described their individual personalities. As the devils clambered over him, occasionally nibbling on his fingertips, Irons assured that his charges were misunderstood.

"Their so-called hunting skills? Their eyesight goes to about 4 or 5 feet," he said. "Agility? They run like they're injured." Their top speed is about 9 mph.

It was the screaming in the dark bush land that doomed the marsupial, which has been on the most-wanted list for almost as long as it has been known. European settlers in the 19th century heard the devil's signature shrieks and saddled the animal with its unsympathetic name. Bounty hunters captured and poisoned the devils, natural scavengers, into near-extinction in the erroneous belief that they were attacking livestock.

Africa's 'river horse'

The hippopotamus (Greek for "river horse") leads a slow, sedentary, yet social lifestyle in the rivers and lakes in southern Africa.


Not a swimmer
Hippos are unable to swim or float, so while submerged they trot on underwater pathways so their eyes and nostrils are above water
Night grazer
Though submerged in water most of the day, hippos graze on grasses for up to 6 hours a night
Size matters
With its large size and massive mouth, a hippo is rarely challenged by predators
• About 15 ft. (4.5 m) long and 5 ft. (1.5 m) tall; can weigh up to 4 tons (about as much as a large SUV)
Soaking up the sun
Hippos enjoy lying on the shore in the sunlight; when not in the water, they secrete a red oily substance referred to as "blood sweat," which keeps their skin moist
Like their space
Hippos are territorial, especially regarding their young; they travel in schools of 10 to 15 individuals and have been known to attack other animals and other hippos, as well as canoes and swimmers
Hippo habitat
Populations vary, but hippos are most common in southern African countries, according to a 2004 study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature
AFRICA
Less than 1,000
1,000 - 4,999
5,000 - 9,999
10,000+

Source: African Wildlife Foundation, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, National Geographic, San Diego Zoo
Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Lauren Yoffe

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Do Your Part

Slash your grocery bill while going green

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We're all looking for ways to cut down on our bills. Grocery shopping is a necessity but there are ways to lower your costs each week while lowering your eco-footprint. Here are my top five ways to Do Your Part for the planet and your pocketbook.

NO. 1: STOCK UP ON GREEN CLEANERS

When you create a green cleaning kit with baking soda, white vinegar, borax, and hydrogen peroxide you have all you need to clean everything in your home. And, it's just a fraction of what it'll cost you to buy store-bought household cleaners. For instance, a 76-ounce box of Borax can produce 19 gallons of mold and mildew cleaner. You would need to buy more than a 150 16-ounce bottles of store bought cleaners to produce the same amount.

NO. 2: DO THE PREP WORK YOURSELF

A few extra minutes in the kitchen really can save you a few bucks each week. If your family eats a lot chicken, buying the chicken whole or with the skin on, will bring immediate savings. Boneless and skinless chicken breasts cost about $4.99 a pound. Compare that to chicken sold with bone and skin that's priced around $1.99 a pound. You could use the savings to buy organic chicken and feel good about serving your family a healthier piece of poultry. Also, instead of buying fruits and veggies that have been cut and peeled for you, do the work yourself and pay half the price.

NO. 3: BUY IN BULK

You know those individually packaged crackers, cookies, or other snacks?

You'll probably want to ban them from your home after finding out the true cost of convenience. Plus, the packaging on those small items is usually tough to recycle. Your best bet is to go big when it makes sense. My family loves those popular cheese crackers. The big box of them costs $3.79 or $0.28 an ounce. If you get them in the individual size, it costs $0.40 per ounce! That's a $0.12 savings on every ounce.

Instead, put the crackers from the large box into a small reusable container that your child can bring to school.

NO. 4: SHOP IN SEASON

Shopping in season for produce is smart for you, your pocketbook, and the planet. When you buy foods at their peak, they aren't being shipped around the world to arrive at your grocery store. That means they're usually much more affordable than at other times of the year. If you're not sure what's in season where you live, check out DoYourPart.com/Columns for more information.

NO. 5: DO WHAT GRANDMA DID

When you spot organic fruits and veggies on sale—buy up! Then, you can do what our grandmothers did by preserving them. Whether you freeze, can, or dehydrate your foods—you'll have the next best thing to fresh, organic produce for a time when you'll want them and they are no longer in season.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Baltic Sea letter in bottle turns up after 24 years

MOSCOW (AP)—Nearly a quarter-century after a German boy tossed a message in a bottle off a ship in the Baltic Sea, he's received an answer.

A 13-year-old Russian, Daniil Korotkikh, was walking with his parents on a beach when he saw something glittering lying in the sand.

"I saw that bottle and it looked interesting," Korotkikh told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It looked like a German beer bottle with a ceramic plug, and there was a message inside."

Korotkikh

His father, who knows schoolboy German, translated the letter, carefully wrapped in cellophane and sealed by a medical bandage.

It said: "My name is Frank, and I'm five years old. My dad and I are traveling on a ship to Denmark. If you find this letter, please write back to me, and I will write back to you."

The letter, dated 1987, included an address in the town of Coesfeld.

The boy in the letter, Frank Uesbeck, is now 29. His parents still live at the letter's address.

"At first I didn't believe it," Uesbeck told the AP about getting the response from Korotkikh. In fact, he barely remembered the trip at all; his father actually wrote the letter.

The Russian boy and the German man met each other earlier this month via an Internet video link.

Korotkikh showed Uesbeck the bottle where he found the message and the letter that he put in a frame.

The Russian boy said he does not believe that the bottle actually spent 24 years in the sea: "It would not have survived in the water all that time," he said.

He believes it had been hidden under the sand where he found it—on the Curonian Spit, a 100-kilometer (60-mile) stretch of sand in Lithuania and Russia.

In the web chat earlier this month, Uesbek gave Korotkikh his new address to write to and promised to write back when he receives his letter.

When will you die? Insurer will guess

By PAUL GORES
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

MILWAUKEE—Only God knows your expiration date, but Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. has an online calculator to give you a clue.

The Milwaukee-based insurer said it hopes people who take the quick, 13-question quiz will discover not only some ways to make life last longer, but then prepare financially for an extended run here on earth.

ON THE NET:

For an estimate of your longevity, go to http://media.nmfn.com/tnetwork/lifespan/.

Northwestern Mutual highlighted its calculator this week, citing a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that American life expectancy continues to increase. As of 2009, the latest data available, the expected life span of women was 80.6 years and 75.7 years for men. That's up slightly from 2008.

Bob Gleeson, a Medical College of Wisconsin physician, said Northwestern Mutual's calculator is helpful because it gives participants immediate feedback on how their lifestyle and family medical history contribute to their likely longevity. The calculator starts with your current age, then adds or subtracts years from your projected final age, depending how you're faring with fundamental factors for life expectancy.

For example, the calculator takes into account whether a person is overweight, has a family history of cardiovascular trouble, eats right, exercises regularly, smokes, drinks alcohol, drives safely and visits a doctor regularly. Among common practices of people expected to live longer, according to Gleeson: They eat multiple helpings daily of fruits and vegetables, they don't smoke, they're not fat and they exercise. But only a small percentage of Americans actually fit that profile.

"Everyone can do those," said Gleeson, who is director of prevention and lipids for the Medical College. "And that group of people has a much lower risk of future disease, a much lower risk of long-term disability, and they're going to live the longest."

Rebekah Barsch, Northwestern Mutual's director of retirement markets, said as life expectancy increases, people need to plan for a lengthier retirement. That's tougher to do today than it was 40 years ago, when many Americans could count on pensions, Social Security and savings to see them through. She said people need to find a trustworthy financial professional "and start to get going on the plan."

"Planning is even more important for women for a number of reasons," Barsch said. "The reality is that women not only live longer, but are more likely to take time away from their careers to act as caregivers for their families. What this means is women have to make the most of every retirement dollar, and protecting those dollars is a top priority."

Cobra 'speaks out' on Twitter

By CRISTIAN SALAZAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—The Bronx Zoo may still be looking for its missing cobra, but a tongue-in-cheek Twitter user is charting its supposed progress.

Someone using the handle BronxZoosCobra has been tweeting to a quickly growing number of followers - more than 85,000 by early Tuesday evening. In contrast with the user posing as the 20-inch, highly venomous snake, the Bronx Zoo had about 6,000 followers.

"On top of the Empire State Building!" BronxZoosCobra posted. "All the people look like little mice down there. Delicious little mice."

Tweets included one about "Sex and the City": "I'm totally a SSSamantha."

Another entry riffed on the weather and New Yorkers' fears of the slithering escapee: "It's getting pretty cold out. I think it's probably time to crash. Oh look, an apartment window someone left open just a crack. Perfect!"

The Reptile House at the Bronx Zoo, run by the nonprofit Wildlife Conservation Society, closed Friday after zoo workers searched but did not find the Egyptian cobra. Zoo officials said Monday they were confident the snake was hiding in the Reptile House but conceded that finding it would be difficult.

"The difficulty is that the 20-inch, pencil-thin snake, which is months old and weighs less than 3 ounces, has sought out a secure hiding spot within the Reptile House," the zoo said, describing it as a "complex environment with pumps, motors and other mechanical systems."

The user behind BronxZoosCobra refused to identify himself or herself or say who was typing the tweets.

"The iPhone touch screen works just as well with a tail," the person said in an email to The Associated Press signed, "Thankssss."

Asked about the Twitter feed's popularity, BronxZoosCobra "knew it would be popular with reptilian twitterers and a mild appeal to amphibians. Surprised the mammal response has been so huge."

Kris Stoever, a writer and editor from Denver, said she found the cobra tweeting very witty.

"It's a missing snake on the lam. It's the stuff of comedy legend," Stoever said in a telephone interview.

The only twitter account the snake was following was the one belonging to the Bronx Zoo, (at)TheBronxZoo. The zoo's account tweeted one message on Monday saying it understands the interest in the story.

"Right now," the zoo said, "it's the snake's game."

Asked how the snake was faring in the cold, the user behind the Twitter account said: "Hiding in passerbys' scarves has been working for me so far, but I'm thinking about heading to a sauna to warm up for a bit."

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Margarita Tudela Camacho Muña

Lovingly known as "Tan Margaritan Kulas"

Born: June 5, 1923 • Died: March 28, 2011

In her new life, she now joins her:
Father: †Antonio Palacios Camacho
Mother: †Maria Sablan Tudela Camacho
Sons: †Francisco C. Muña, †Nicolas C. Muña, †Olympio C. Muña
Sisters: †Concepcion C. Muña, †Cecilia T. Camacho, †Romana T. Camacho, †Baleriana T. Camacho
Brothers: †Lorenzo T. Camacho, †Jose T. Camacho, †Jesus T. Camacho, †Pedro T. Camacho
Parents-in-Law: †Jose Duenas Muña & †Ana Quidachai Muña
Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws: †Victoria Ch. Camacho, †Juana L. Camacho, †Rita S. Camacho, †Antonia S. Camacho, †Carmen S. Camacho, †Rosario L. Camacho, †Jose A. Muña, †Jose Q. Muña/†Cresencia T. Muña, †Cornelia Q. Muña, †Juan Q. Muña/†Dolores C. Muña, †Luisa Muña Camacho/†Pedro R. Camacho, †Victoria Muña Benavente/†Antonio M. Benavente

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Nicolas Quidachai Muña "Tun Kulas"
Children and Families:
- **Antonio Camacho Muña**/Maria P. Muña (Frankie/Rose LG. Muña, Tina/Francisco C. Aguon, Anthony/Trinidad S. Muña, Kenneth/Maria C. Muña, Nick/Esther L. Muña, Joycelyn/Francisco A. Reyes, Dwayne P. Muña, Joseph/Linda B. Muña, Ly'ana P. Muña, Joseph P. Muña Jr.)
- **Cecilia Muña Villagomez**/†Roman T. Villagomez (Maria Margarita Villagomez/Jason Leon Guerrero, Antonette Carmen Villagomez/Jesse James Teigita, Jose Roman Villagomez/Virgina Cruz)
- **Jesus Camacho Muña**/Dorothea C. Muña (†Jesus C. Muña, Jr., Geraldine/Mark Mendiola, Caroline/Jered Lutu, Alfred/Grace Muña)
- **Jose Camacho Muña**/Janet I. Muña (Jessica/Michael Manglona, Marie I. Muña, Joanna/Peter Damian, Joey I. Muña)
- **Maria Muña McDill**/Henry McDill (Katherine, Geraldine/Butch Wisehart, Glenn, Mathew, Douglas, Robert)
- **Cornelia Camacho Muña**
- **Delfina Camacho Muña** (Glenn Paul/Elisa Muña)
- **Ana Muña Sablan**/Herman P. Sablan (Leolani R. Repeki, Kolin M. Reyes/Rose Guerrero, Marvin Reyes, Ashley/Ryan Tudela)
- **Francisco Camacho Muña**/Joyce Muña (Meagan, Margaret, Cheyenne)
- **Maria Margarita Muña Reyes**/Joseph A. Reyes (Rosie/Sylvan, Joseph Jr., Jeffrey, Julian/Jeding, Roman)
- **Merced Camacho Muña**/Isidro R. Sablan (Jolene Nicole/Jesse DLGuerrero, Robert Herman, Sidney John, Nick Jesse)

Our Nana is additionally survived by eighty-two Great Grandchildren and eighteen Great-Great Grandchildren.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00pm.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 05, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am.

Holy Rosary will be recited at 10:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm. Interment Services will follow at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery at Marpi, Saipan where she will be at a peaceful rest.

We Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Tun Kulas Muña and Family

Jack Black takes Po the kung fu panda to 3-D realm

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jack Black figures if any action hero deserves the 3-D treatment, it's his pudgy panda with the martial-arts moves.

Black joined DreamWorks Animation colleagues Monday night to show off extended action scenes from "Kung Fu Panda 2" at CinemaCon, a Las Vegas convention for theater owners.

The 2008 original took in $630 million worldwide in just two dimensions. But the sequel due out May 26 will be in 3-D, with the extra box-office revenue that generally follows as fans shell out a few dollars more to gain the illusion of depth.

Black said the 3-D action will make "King Fu Panda 2" more of a thrill ride, dropping viewers right into the heart of the battles.

"My feeling is that 3-D with the right people, the right artists and technicians flying it, is amazing and definitely enhances the experience for the right movie," Black said. "'Kung Fu Panda 2'? Yes, it will make it more exciting and dynamic and amazing to watch. Whereas, let's say, there was going to be 'My Dinner with Andre 2.' I would say not necessary to do 3-D."

The sequel reunites Black with a voice cast that includes Angelina Jolie, Dustin Hoffman, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan and Lucy Liu. Gary Oldman joins the lineup to provide the voice of a new villain, a peacock who unleashes a deadly new weapon in the ancient Chinese realm that Black's Po and his comrades are sworn to defend.

Black said he's game to do a third "Kung Fu Panda" movie. He has a busy live-action slate ahead, too, reuniting with his "School of Rock" director Richard Linklater for the black comedy "Bernie," about a man whose friendship with an elderly woman (Shirley MacLaine) goes terribly wrong, and co-starring with Steve Martin and Owen Wilson in "The Big Year," about rivals in an annual bird-watching competition.

"Whenever there are grown men competing tooth-and-nail over something that seems sort of ridiculous, there's a lot of comedy there," Black said.

Black also has a cameo in this holiday season's new big-screen take on "The Muppets," playing a "darker, angrier version of myself."

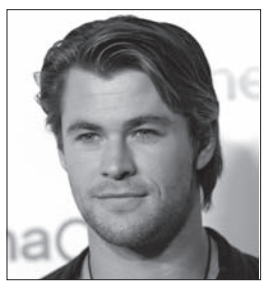
"I'm kidnapped," Black said. "Basically, I get kidnapped by the Muppets."

Hemsworth hammers on Hollywood's door as Thor

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Chris Hemsworth is turning the mighty Thor's fall from grace into his own personal rise to Hollywood stardom.

Hemsworth stars in the title role of "Thor," the Marvel Comics superhero adaptation that opens May 6 to lead off what is expected to be a season of summer blockbusters.

The 27-year-old Australian actor joined distributor Paramount Pictures to show off footage of "Thor" to theater owners Monday night at their CinemaCon convention in Las Vegas, where Hemsworth will receive an award Thursday as male star of tomorrow.



Hemsworth

After a six-month casting process, Hemsworth said he felt as if he had won the lottery when he got the role as the fallen Norse god, particularly given his colleagues on "Thor." Among them: Oscar winners Natalie Portman and Anthony Hopkins and director Kenneth Branagh.

"As a young actor being in this town, prior to this, it was knocking on doors and auditioning and going on the rounds," Hemsworth said in an interview. "This has sort of set me up, hopefully, for more of these films and opened other doors."

With "Thor" still weeks away from its premiere, Hemsworth already is heading back to the set to reprise the role in the ensemble superhero adventure "The Avengers," due out in 2012. The film teams Hemsworth's Thor with other big-screen Marvel Comics idols, including Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Chris Evans as Captain America and Mark Ruffalo as the Incredible Hulk.

The "Thor" footage shown at CinemaCon chronicles the fall of the hero from Asgard, the realm of the Norse gods. Cocky and quarrelsome, Thor is cast out by his father (Hopkins) and banished to learn some humility among mortals on Earth, where he falls in with a team of scientists that includes Portman.

After a start in Australian television, Hemsworth landed a small role as James Kirk's father in 2009's "Star Trek." Bigger roles followed in the action tale "Red Dawn" and the horror story "Cabin in the Woods," two films that have sat on the shelf awaiting release amid financial troubles at distributor MGM.

Hemsworth is the middle sibling in a family of three brothers who all went into acting. His older brother is Australian TV veteran Luke Hemsworth and his younger sibling is Miley Cyrus' ex-boyfriend and "The Last Song" co-star Liam Hemsworth.

While "Thor" is the biggest score for the Hemsworth acting clan, there was no sibling rivalry when he landed the role, the film's star said.

"We're competitive in the best ways. Always have been growing up," Hemsworth said. "In this particular business, I guess we're all aware of the uncertainly of it. The odds are against you. So it's kind of a team effort. When somebody gets a job, you're just as happy for each, and this particular thing, they were just as excited as I was."

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Sucker Punch

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Emily Browning, Abbie Cornish
Action, Fantasy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Zack Snyder presents a hyper-violent spin on Alice in Wonderland for his directorial follow-up to Watchmen with this Cruel and Unusual Films production for Warner Bros. The plot details the action-packed fantasy world of a mental patient (Emily Browning), who escapes from her reality to deal with her abusive stepfather.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Chicldren's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Astro Boy director David Bowers helms the follow-up film to 2010's big screen adaptation of Jeff Kinney's acclaimed Diary of a Wimpy Kid comic novels in this Fox 2000 production. Zachary Gordon stars as the titular character who takes on his older bullish brother, Rodrick, in the sequel penned by Gabe Sachs and Jeff Judah.

★ ★ ★

Limitless

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
Thriller, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The Illusionist's Neil Burger helms this adaptation of Alan Glynn's novel detailing what happens when a man stumbles upon a one-of-a-kind smart pill. Hairspray's Leslie Dixon provides the screenplay for the Universal production.

Paul

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Simon Pegg, Nick Frost
Comedy • Rated R

Battle: Los Angeles

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Red Riding Hood

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Amanda Sayfried, Gary Oldman
Horror • Rated PG 13

Rango

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G

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Paris Hilton says she's the 'original'

AP

American celebrity Paris Hilton displays shoe models from her new collection during a news conference in Mexico City, Mexico, Tuesday March 29, 2011.

By ISAAC GARRIDO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Paris Hilton, the woman who perfected the art of being famous for being famous, says she has met all of her professional goals.

The heiress-turned-TV star, who was in Mexico on Tuesday to promote a new line of shoes, says she doesn't fear being overshadowed by Kim Kardashian or any other reality show rival with her own fragrance, B-movies, sex tape and autobiography, all by age 30.

"There's so many people out there who try to imitate what I do but I am the original," Hilton said in an interview with The Associated Press. "There is nothing like me."

The socialite, who started her career as a model and has tried her hand in movies, fashion and singing, is currently shooting her latest reality TV show, "The World According to Paris," which will debut this spring on the Oxygen cable channel.

"The show's everything about my life, showing the business woman", Hilton said.

Before the media reported on Kardashian's every move, Hilton was the favorite celebutante of the tabloids, which covered every party she went to, every man she dated and every brush she had with the law.

Hilton angrily dismissed questions about whether her life is superficial.

"I thought we were talking about the shoes," she said.

Her shoe collection is the latest addition to a lucrative empire that lends her name to 17 lines of products from handbags and fragrances to clothing.

"I have done everything that I wanted to do and I feel very blessed that I have been very successful on every area," Hilton, wearing a long beige, sleeveless dress in her Mexico City hotel suite.

"So it's very exciting. There is nothing else to do," she said as her aides occasionally touched up her hair and makeup.

"I think that I have the best style and I know fashion," she added. "The girls all love my style. When they buy my products they can be like me."

Her sense of fulfillment doesn't mean she's about to retire. Hilton said she hopes the next phase of her business career will be in real estate, with her own chain of hotels, restaurants and nightclubs, a fitting path for the hotel heiress.

Clooney called as defense witness

ROME (AP)—Silvio Berlusconi's defense lawyers named George Clooney, the Italian foreign minister and a bevy of showgirls as witnesses at the premier's upcoming prostitution trial, an attorney and news reports said.

Prosecutors, for their part, have asked to hear from 136 witnesses, including the Moroccan teenager at the center of the scandal and 32 other women who allegedly worked as prostitutes during parties at Berlusconi's villa, according to Italian news reports.

Both sides presented their lists of witnesses at the Milan tribunal where the trial opens next week. A judge must now decide which witnesses to admit.

Clooney

The 74-year-old Berlusconi is accused of having paid for sex with the Moroccan, who is known as Ruby and was 17 at the time, and then using his influence to try to cover it up. The premier denies wrongdoing.

Clooney was listed because Ruby once said she had seen the Hollywood star and his Italian girlfriend Elisabetta Canalis at one of Berlusconi's parties, according to the law firm representing Berlusconi.

"We want to see if they confirm this fact or not," said attorney Piersilvio Cipollotti.

Beyonce's dad says business split shows her growth

NEW YORK (AP)—Mathew Knowles says Beyonce's decision to part ways with him as a manager was part of her growing up.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Knowles called his daughter a "very, very smart businesswoman" who is ready to take control of her own career.

"It should come as no surprise that at 29 years old, almost 30, that she wants to have more control of her business," he said.

Beyonce announced Monday that her father would no longer manage her career. He had done so since she was a child, and took her from multi-platinum success with the group Destiny's Child to a superstar solo career, with blockbuster albums, top movies, a clothing line and lucrative endorsement deals under her belt.

The Grammy winner didn't indicate who her new manager might be, but Knowles said he hoped that person would sustain his daughter's "level of success."

Gauguin wooden bust headed for NYC auction

AP
This undated photo provided by Sotheby's shows a rare wooden bust of a Tahitian girl wearing large earrings and a coral and shell necklace, carved by Paul Gauguin in the 1890s during his first visit to the South Pacific islands.

NEW YORK (AP)—During his first visit to the South Pacific Islands in the 1890s, Paul Gauguin carved a wooden sculpture of a Tahitian girl wearing large earrings and a necklace of coral and shells that the artist collected and strung together himself.

Last seen by the public in 1961 when the current New England collector purchased it at auction, "Jeune tahitienne" is estimated to bring $10 million to $15 million when it's auctioned at Sotheby's on May 3.

It is the only known fully-worked three dimensional bust made by Gauguin, Sotheby's said Tuesday.

The serene-looking Tahitian girl is carved out of a warm brown local wood, with the five-strand necklace wrapped around her ponytail. A tiny hole allows for a fresh flower to be inserted near her face.

Sotheby's said the artist himself collected and strung the shells and coral for the necklace.

Lindsay Lohan won't be charged for rehab scuffle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan has one less legal worry after prosecutors announced Tuesday that they would not pursue any charges against her over a December scuffle with a rehab worker.

District Attorney's spokesman John Hall said prosecutors determined there was insufficient evidence to pursue a misdemeanor battery case against the actress.

Lohan

Police were called to a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert around 1 a.m. local time on Dec. 12 after a worker accused Lohan of hurting her during an altercation. The worker, Dawn Holland, later spoke about the incident on camera with TMZ and was fired by Betty Ford for violating patient confidentiality rules.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

O'Donnell to move into Winfrey's Chicago studio

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago studio where Oprah Winfrey tapes her soon-to-end talk show soon will be home to Rosie O'Donnell's latest daytime television effort, which is set to debut on the Oprah Winfrey Network this fall, Harpo Studios announced Tuesday. The announcement ends speculation about what will become of Winfrey's Harpo Studios on Chicago's West Side when "The Oprah Winfrey Show" ends taping this spring. Winfrey opened the studios in 1990. "I'm delighted to welcome Rosie to the studio I've called home for so many years," Winfrey said in a statement.

Shakira Twitter site posts photo with star athlete

BOGOTA (AP) — Shakira apparently is showing off her new romance. The Colombian singer's Twitter site carries a photo of her in the arms of Barcelona football star. It is labeled: "I present my sun to you." That's a play on the name of her latest album, "Sale el Sol," or "The Sun Comes Out." The singer's press office in Colombia confirmed that it is her official Twitter site. Neither Shakira nor Pique have officially confirmed they are seeing one another, despite recently published photos of them kissing. In January, Shakira announced her separation from Argentine Antonio De la Rua after an 11-year relationship.

Enrique Iglesias won't join Britney Spears on tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Enrique Iglesias won't be joining Britney Spears on an upcoming tour despite her announcement that he would. Spears said Tuesday morning on ABC television's "Good Morning America" that the pair would be hitting the road together. Iglesias representative Gary Mantoosh said later in a statement to The Associated Press that his client and Spears won't tour together "despite initial reports based on formal discussions of the possible run." The statement says Iglesias "is very sorry for the confusion this might have caused to anyone." It says the Latin singer respects Spears and is a fan of her work. Igelesias is on tour in Europe. Spears on Tuesday released her seventh album, "Femme Fatale." Her U.S. tour kicks off June 17 in Sacramento, California.

'Mad Men' season 5 pushed back to 2012, AMC says

NEW YORK (AP) — AMC says "Mad Men" is definitely coming back, but the new season won't be on the air until 2012. The network's announcement on Tuesday came amid reports of ongoing negotiations between Lionsgate, the studio that produces the series, and its creator-executive producer, Matthew Weiner. The announcement took note of the delayed start in shooting the new season, which will be the series' fifth. In the past, "Mad Men" has aired in the summer or early fall. The much-acclaimed drama stars Jon Hamm as an advertising executive and divorced family man working in Manhattan in the 1960s.

Reba, Swift and Brooks among early ACM winners

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Reba McEntire, Taylor Swift and Garth Brooks have won special off-camera Academy of Country Music Awards. ACMs host McEntire is this year's career achievement winner, Swift won the Jim Reeves International Award for spreading an appreciation of country music around the world and Brooks won the Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award with the Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers. The award honors pioneers in the genre. The awards were announced Tuesday. The ACMs will air live Sunday in Las Vegas on CBS. Other winners include Tom T. Hall and Hank Cochran (the Poet's Award for songwriting), Paul Worley (producer of the year) and the film "Country Strong" (Tex Ritter Award for use of country music in film).

Judge: Willie Nelson won't have to sing in court

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A Texas judge says Willie Nelson won't have to sing in court to resolve marijuana possession charges—and a suggestion that he do so was a joke. County Attorney Kit Bramblett had said Nelson could resolve the charges by pleading guilty, paying a fine—and singing "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" for the court. Bramblett said Judge Becky Dean-Walker demanded Nelson appear in court, not plead by mail. Dean-Walker told The Associated Press she thinks the prosecutor was trying to be funny "and it got out of hand." She said Tuesday that Nelson can plead guilty without coming to court and singing. Nelson was arrested Nov. 26 at a Border Patrol checkpoint in Sierra Blanca. His spokeswoman had declined to comment earlier on the sentencing suggestion.

Girl's change in attitude dismays father's fiancee

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am in my late 30s and have been dating "Rick" for six years. The problem is his daughter, "Janet." We used to get along, but now she hates me. She calls me awful names and says she wishes I would go away.

I recently asked Rick to marry me. Now Janet says I am "desperate" and she refuses to talk to either of us. I don't know what to say to her. I'm appalled at her attitude toward me, the language she uses and the things she's saying about me to her friends on the Internet. She won't listen to her dad. Her mother is encouraging her behavior and has been threatening me.

I can't get Janet to understand that her dad and I love each other, that it's all right for a woman to ask a man to marry her and it's not out of "desperation." Please help.

NOT DESPERATE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR NOT DESPERATE: Toughen up. Recognize that for all of the joy Rick brings you, Janet is his extremely immature daughter and she's part of the package. How old is the girl? She appears to have years of growing up to do. You can't change her behavior, so go on with your life without seeking her approval. Unfortunately, nasty ex-wives are nothing new. If the ex does anything beyond "threaten" you, file a police report and let them deal with her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Can common sense be learned or taught? Some people seem to be born with it. Others have "book smarts" but struggle with everyday common sense.

I fail to grasp simple connections, and I sometimes ask questions that have obvious answers—for someone else. I know other people who share the same problem, and I admire those who simply seem to "get" what's happening around them.

Is there any way to improve? I'm 38 and married to a man who has strengths in both areas.

BOOKWORM IN MONTANA

DEAR BOOKWORM: Nobody has everything. Your strength is your intellect. Not everyone is a good student, and it can affect their self-esteem as much or more than your worry about not having common sense. If it's any comfort, people usually acquire common sense in the school of life. In other words, they learn from the mistakes they make. I'm sure you have done that and will continue to do so.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 34-year-old daughter blames me for her poor penmanship. When she was a baby, she started grabbing things with her left hand. Her pediatrician advised me to force her to use her right hand. Could she have had better penmanship if she had not been forced to use her right hand?

GUILTY MOM IN MADISON, ALA.

DEAR GUILTY MOM: Probably. Your pediatrician must have been very old or very "old school." I am also left-handed, and when I was a child, educators had stopped forcing children to write in a way that was unnatural for them. I was taught to properly hold a pencil, we practiced printing and cursive penmanship, and I am told my handwriting is beautiful.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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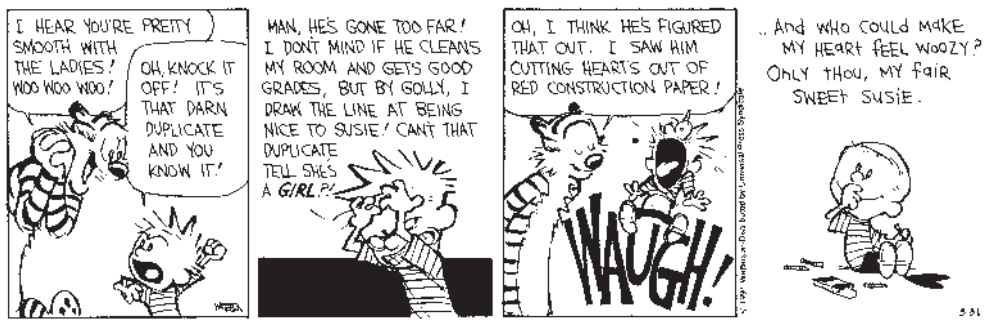
Pastimes

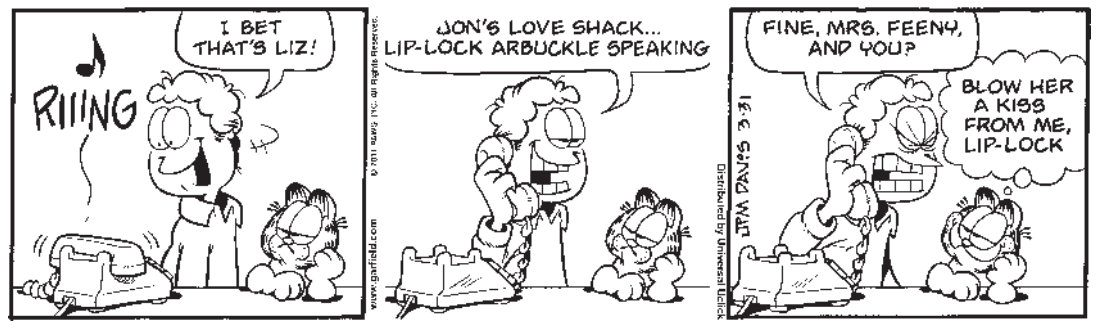
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I HEAR YOU'RE PRETTY SMOOTH WITH THE LADIES! WOO WOO WOO!
OH, KNOCK IT OFF! IT'S THAT DARN DUPLICATE AND YOU KNOW IT!
MAN, HE'S GONE TOO FAR! I DON'T MIND IF HE CLEANS MY ROOM AND GETS GOOD GRADES, BUT BY GOLLY, I DRAW THE LINE AT BEING NICE TO SUSIE! CAN'T THAT DUPLICATE TELL SHE'S A GIRL?!
OH, I THINK HE'S FIGURED THAT OUT. I SAW HIM CUTTING HEARTS OUT OF RED CONSTRUCTION PAPER!
WAUGH!
..And who could make MY HEART FEEL WOOZY? ONLY THOU, MY FAIR SWEET SUSIE.

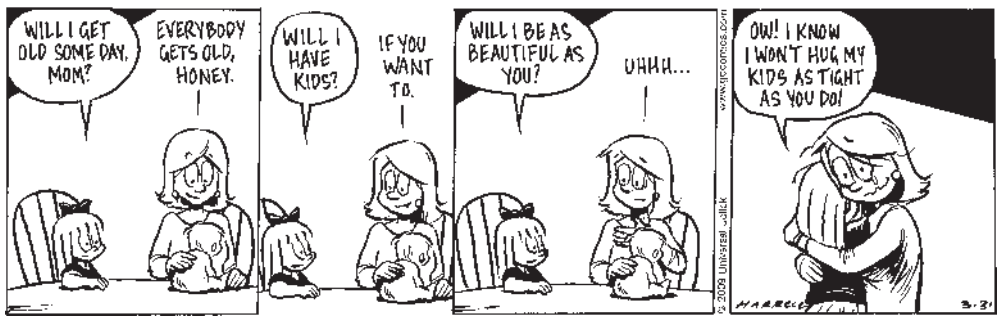
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WILL I GET OLD SOME DAY, MOM?
EVERYBODY GETS OLD, HONEY.
WILL I HAVE KIDS?
IF YOU WANT TO.
WILL I BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU?
UHHH...
OW! I KNOW I WON'T HUG MY KIDS AS TIGHT AS YOU DO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW'S THE DIET GOING?
IT'S DEPRESSING.
BECAUSE YOU FEEL DEPRIVED?
NO. NOT AT ALL! I'M NOT THINKING OF MYSELF!
I FEEL BAD FOR ALL THE BEER IN THE FRIDGE. THEY'RE THE REAL VICTIMS IN ALL THIS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

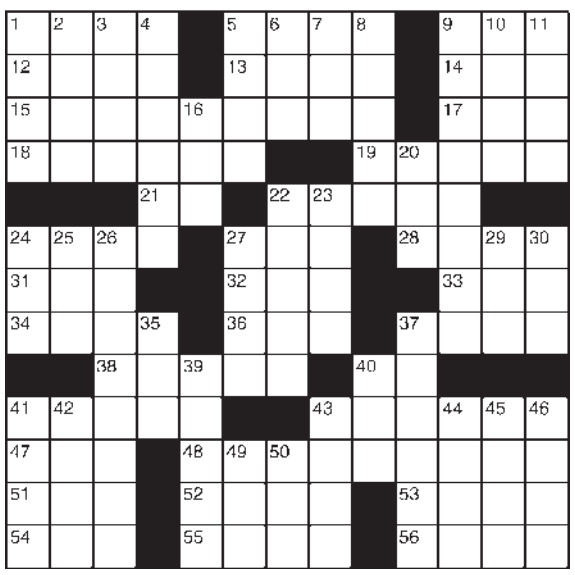
ACROSS
1 Teen's woe
5 Cole Porter's "Let's —"
9 "All My Children" airer
12 Surveyor's map
13 Reed instrument
14 Sine — non
15 Tuba's cousin
17 Coffee vessel
18 Rap session?
19 Bit of flora
21 Tagged player
22 Clean the cookware
24 Intl. oil group
27 Ovine remark
28 Band's bookings
31 Sister
32 Mountain
33 "— Lazy River"
34 Never again?
36 Spelling contest
37 Mosque VIP
38 Agrees to
40 Either mate
41 About half of all adults
43 Show clearly
47 "The Greatest"
48 P.E. venue
51 H1N1 ailment
52 Future 19-Across
53 Beige
54 Scot's hat
55 "The Price Is Right" props
56 Collections

DOWN
1 "Planet of the —"
2 Aid for Sherlock
3 California wine valley
4 Cultural, in a sense
5 Finished
6 Kimono sash
7 Debtor's letters
8 Beat
9 Fishtank
10 Char
11 Lacks the skills
16 Autumn mo.
20 Drag along
22 Red-tag events
23 Part of a superhero costume
24 Lennon's lady
25 Play on words
26 Warm praise
27 Infant
29 Coll. transcript stat
30 Our uncle
35 — out a living
37 Van Gogh painting
39 Uneasy feeling
40 Eggs
41 Float gracefully
42 Earthenware pot
43 Odd's mates
44 Pleasant
45 Rudely brief
46 Ostriches' kin
49 Verily
50 "Family Guy" daughter

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	O	P	S	■	M	A	R	■	A	J	A	R
O	P	E	C	■	O	W	E	■	B	A	S	E
C	U	P	O	F	T	E	A	■	A	R	I	A
A	S	S	O	R	T	■	P	E	L	H	A	M
■	■	■	P	O	L	■	S	L	O	E	■	■
B	B	C	■	G	E	M	■	K	N	A	V	E
R	O	A	M	■	D	I	X	■	E	D	I	T
A	P	N	E	A	■	L	E	A	■	S	A	C
■	■	B	A	D	E	■	R	I	D	■	■	■
P	H	E	N	O	L	■	O	L	I	V	E	S
L	O	R	D	■	B	O	X	S	C	O	R	E
O	C	R	E	■	O	R	E	■	E	L	I	A
T	S	A	R	■	W	A	S	■	S	T	E	M

Yesterday's answer 3-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Szohr, 26; Ewan McGregor, 40; Christopher Walken, 68; Shirley Jones, 77

Happy Birthday: Your intuition will be right on target this year. Second-guessing will be your downfall. Don't allow anyone to push you into something you don't feel right doing. Be true to yourself and your beliefs and you will advance. This is not the year to compromise. Your numbers are 2, 5, 14, 20, 23, 38, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your quick response to whatever comes your way will show others you are on top of your game and aren't easily fooled. With discipline and a responsible attitude, you can turn any disappointment into something that can work for you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put more time and effort into helping others and you will receive recognition. Your hands on approach in both your personal and professional dealings will lead to a position you cannot turn down. Take care of personal paperwork. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You have to separate your emotions from the equation when dealing with difficult individuals trying to get something for nothing. It's nice to receive compliments but don't make a promise to do something because of it. Use your time to your own advantage. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let last-minute changes throw you off. Be ready to adapt to whatever develops, especially if it has to do with work. Love is on the rise and the chance to meet someone new or to enhance the relationship you are already in looks good. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Jump in with both feet. Change will stimulate you and help you turn one of your ideas into a workable endeavor. Getting involved in a group or attending a conference will lead to an important connection. A lifestyle change will open up opportunities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your emotions will be difficult to control. Deal with pending problems in order to ease your stress so you can address any personal issues that arise. Someone you love is likely to disappoint you. Patience and understanding will be the keys to making things better. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't overreact. Use whatever comes your way to your advantage. Let your imagination flow and your creative talent move you in a positive direction. Opportunities are present but you have to take action. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can achieve a lot both personally and professionally if you mingle with people who can help you get ahead and people who love and support you. Mixing business with pleasure will pay high dividends. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Look at each situation you face, separating the good from the bad. Only after you differentiate between who is willing to help you and who isn't, will you be in a position to move forward. Changes made at home can increase efficiency. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't show surprise if someone broadsides you with unexpected information or choices. Make whatever you are handed work for you. Don't bother arguing when taking action is so much more effective. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An old idea will help you turn something you are working toward now into a positive endeavor. A love interest will not turn out the way you expect. Be careful not to disrupt a relationship that means a lot to you by making a stupid choice. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love is at an all-time high. Putting pressure on someone you want to be with will have its advantages, but keep in mind that if you ask for too much, your plan will backfire. Consider everyone involved in your circle before you proceed. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, sensitive and impulsive. You are emotional, passionate and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		1				4		8
			1		6			
8				9				1
	2						5	
		6				3		
	3						8	
5				6				7
			4		9			
4		9				5		3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	6	9	4	7	5	1
4	7	9	5	1	3	8	2	6
5	6	1	7	2	8	9	4	3
3	8	5	1	6	9	2	7	4
1	4	2	3	8	7	6	9	5
6	9	7	4	5	2	1	3	8
9	2	6	8	4	5	3	1	7
7	1	4	9	3	6	5	8	2
8	5	3	2	7	1	4	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RECENT BRITISH ROYAL WEDDINGS **Solution: 8 letters**

G	N	I	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	T	I	S	I	V
C	O	M	M	O	N	W	E	A	L	T	H	O	P	E
W	S	C	L	A	R	D	E	H	T	A	C	A	R	E
O	E	T	A	T	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	E	G	H
R	L	S	Y	(P)	W	A	L	E	S	O	E	N	T	T
L	R	A	T	(O)	C	S	Y	S	N	N	I	R	R	E
D	A	R	R	(M)	R	A	E	D	G	R	E	R	A	B
W	H	A	A	(P)	I	R	O	L	A	B	R	N	D	A
I	C	H	P	E	D	N	A	D	L	L	O	O	I	Z
D	R	N	H	E	P	N	S	A	R	M	Y	S	T	I
E	A	O	I	K	D	A	U	T	N	O	A	U	I	L
L	N	I	L	U	A	P	L	M	E	T	L	G	O	E
A	O	T	I	D	I	A	N	A	D	R	H	R	N	T
C	M	A	P	L	E	P	A	H	C	E	O	E	N	A
S	T	N	E	M	E	G	A	G	N	E	Y	F	M	D

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Albert, Anthem, Care, Cathedral, Chapel, Charles, Commonwealth, Date, Dear, Diana, Dress, Duke, Edmund, Elizabeth, Engagement, England, Ferguson, Hope, Lady, Leaders, London, Lord, Monarch, Nation, Organizing, Palace, Party, Paul, Philip, Pomp, Ring, Royal, Sarah, Scale, Scot, State, Tradition, Visitor, Wales, Westminster, Worldwide

Yesterday's Answer: Dictionary

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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WANTED TO BUY

Looking for water truck, 3k to 3.5k gals/cap. Must be in good cond. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317 look for Jeremy or Norma

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution: Wet behind the ears

FOR RENT

CHALAN PIAO 2 BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATHROOMS, EACH ROOM WITH AIRCONDITIONER, FULLY FENCED FOR SECURITY. RENTAL NEGOTIABLE.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Cavaliers top LeBron, Miami Heat

CLEVELAND (AP)—In an unbearable season of losses, Cleveland got the win it wanted most.

The Cavaliers took down LeBron James.

Despite blowing a 23-point lead, the Cavs battled back and beat the Miami Heat 102-90 on Tuesday night, getting a dose of revenge against James, who was making his second homecoming visit to Cleveland since leaving last summer.

J.J. Hickson scored 21 and Anthony Parker scored 20 for the Cavs, who were embarrassed by James and the Heat 118-90 on Dec. 2 - a night when Cleveland fans unleashed their hatred on the superstar.

This time, James left the floor hanging his head. He finished with 27 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

In the closing seconds, a sellout crowd of 20,562 cut loose at a victory even the most loyal Cleveland fan couldn't have imagined. Cavs owner Dan Gilbert, who accused James of quitting in last year's playoffs after the two-time MVP announced he was joining Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in a poorly conceived TV special, high-fived anyone within reach.

On the floor afterward, Parker, whose last 3-pointer with 2:47 left capped a 12-0 run and put the Heat away, addressed Cavs fans.

"You guys deserve it," he said.

The Cavaliers were a different team - literally - from the one that laid down against the Heat here in December. Injuries and trades have reduced Cleveland's roster to a shell of the one James played with and helped win 60 games last season.

The Heat nearly rallied from 23 down, and tied it at 83-all on Mike Bibby's seventh 3-pointer with 7:03 left. But Miami, which wasted a chance to move into second place in the Eastern Conference standings, went scoreless for 4:24, allowed the Cavs to get their 15th win and post their most lopsided win this season.

Wade added 24 for the Heat, who had their winning streak stopped at five.

Cleveland shot 56 percent from the field, a number that Heat coach Erik Spoelstra will certainly use to motivate his team to play better defense as it gets ready for the postseason.

Baron Davis made his first start since coming to Cleveland in a trade, and the veteran scored 10 points and provided leadership. The Cavs also got a big lift from center Ryan Hollins, who had 13 points, three blocks and played physically - something none of Cleveland's players did in December.

There wasn't the same venom and hatred that shrouded James' first visit four months ago. The crowd was energetic but not as outwardly angry toward James, who was booed every time he touched the ball. Security was extremely high, but there were no reported incidents.

The teams took turns going on extended runs in a wild, back-and-forth third quarter.

Cleveland scored 18 straight points and opened a 71-48 lead, sending their fans into a frenzy and putting the Heat in a deep hole. But Miami was a long way from done as Wade hit a pair of 3-pointers and scored 10 points in a 19-1 spurt that pulled the Heat within 72-67 on James' jumper.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Baron Davis (85) passes around Miami Heat's LeBron James in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 29, 2011, in Cleveland.

Christian Eyenga's 3-pointer with 2 seconds left put the Cavs ahead 75-67. James flung a 3-pointer from a few steps beyond halfcourt to end the quarter, a shot that was initially ruled no good but changed after the officials reviewed TV replays between periods and determined there was a clock malfunction.

James arrived at the arena that was his pro basketball home for seven seasons at 5:12 p.m. Wearing headphones and a shirt with the inscription: "Long Live The King," James went through security and waved to a few guards before ducking into the visitor's locker room for the second time.

Kings 116, Suns 113

In Sacramento, Marcus Thornton scored 24 points and had 11 rebounds for the Sacramento Kings, who won their season-high fourth straight game by defeating the Phoenix Suns 116-113 on Tuesday night.

Despite the strong possibility of the team moving to Anaheim next season, the Kings played like a team that was focused only on the present. They are enjoying their best stretch of the season, winning five of six games.

The loss was the third straight and eighth in 11 games for the Suns, who have watched any hopes of the playoffs practically disappear over this stretch. The Suns (36-37) are 10th in the conference and trail the eighth-place Memphis Grizzlies by 4 1/2 games with nine games remaining in the regular season.

Rockets 112, Nets 87

In Newark, Kyle Lowry had 16 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds and the Houston Rockets moved within two games of the final playoff berth in the Western Conference with a 112-87 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night.

Kevin Martin added 20 points as the Rockets (39-35) posted their sixth win in seven games and inched closer to idle eighth-place Memphis (41-33) with eight games left in the regular season.

Patrick Patterson and Goran Draqgic added 13 points apiece, and Chuck Hayes had a game-high 14 rebounds for Houston.

Brook Lopez had 22 points for the Nets, who lost their third in a row and seventh in eight games. Deron Williams missed his sixth straight game for New Jersey (23-50), which has lost 50 games for the second straight season.

Thunder 115, Warriors 114 OT

In Oklahoma City, as the NBA's leading scorer, Kevin Durant is the kind of decoy that's hard to ignore.

The Oklahoma City Thunder used him to perfection to beat the Golden State Warriors 115-114 in overtime Tuesday night.

Durant took his place on the right side of the lane and headed toward the free-throw line as though he was getting ready to receive a pass, just as fellow All-Star Russell Westbrook took off on a drive to the basket.

The result: a foul against Stephen Curry with 11.4 seconds left, leading to

"Russell's a big-time scorer and we wanted to get him something driving to the basket, which is his strength. We knew they were going to call a foul if he drives so hard and tried to score," Durant said. "It was good for either person. I could have posted up at the free-throw line and tried to get a shot or Russell could have took it to the rim."

Day of reckoning as players detail drug use

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—One by one, they walked down the aisle of Courtroom 10 and took a seat on the witness stand for their public day of reckoning.

First Jason Giambi, the 2000 American League MVP. Then his brother Jeremy. And finally Marvin Benard, Barry Bonds' San Francisco Giants teammate.

In the biggest mass confession to steroids use in baseball history, the trio testified Tuesday at Bonds' trial. They all said they purchased and used performance-enhancing drugs from Greg Anderson, the trainer who is in jail for his refusal to testify against Bonds.

"I understood what it was. A steroid," Jeremy Giambi said.

All three had told their stories to a grand jury in 2003, and many details of that testimony were published by the San Francisco Chronicle the following year. And the Mitchell Report in December 2007 detailed the rise of baseball's Steroids Era.

But that was on paper. On Tuesday, the players were forced to answer questions in public from a federal prosecutor about how, when and why they took performance-enhancing drugs.

While Jason Giambi was a cleanup hitter for most of his career, the former Oakland and New York Yankees star led off the athlete testimony on the afternoon of the trial's sixth day. Now a 40-year-old first baseman for the Colorado Rockies, he said he first met Anderson when the trainer accompanied Bonds on the All-Star tour of Japan following the 2002 season—just before the onset of drug testing in baseball. Giambi and Bonds were separated by only an empty locker in the All-Star clubhouse, and Giambi was aware that Anderson worked with Bonds.

When they returned to the U.S., Jason Giambi flew from his home in Henderson, Nev., to meet Anderson in the Bay Area, and Anderson said he would have Giambi's blood tested to determine whether he was deficient in "zinc" and "magnesium." When the results came back, Anderson informed Giambi his sample was positive for the steroid Deca-Durabolin.

"He told me that would trip the Major League Baseball test, and I should look into taking something else," said Jason Giambi, wearing a blue suit, white shirt with checks and black-red-and-white striped tie. "He said he would send me a package of things that I needed."

By mid-December, Anderson sent testosterone to Giambi along with syringes and vitamins.

"Did you understand that to be a steroid?" Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey D. Nedrow asked.

"Yes," Giambi answered.

Bonds is charged with four counts of making false statements to the grand jury and one count of obstruction for denying he knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs. He told the grand jury that Anderson had told him he was taking "flaxseed oil" and "arthritic balm," which in reality were designer steroids nicknamed "the clear" and "the cream."

UConn to lean on freshmen vs Kentucky

STORRS, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut's freshmen aren't showing any signs of nerves headed into the Final Four, just a quiet confidence.

Junior All-American Kemba Walker says that will be a key to how the Huskies perform in Houston this weekend on a stage bigger than freshmen Jeremy Lamb, Shabazz Napier and Roscoe Smith have ever played.

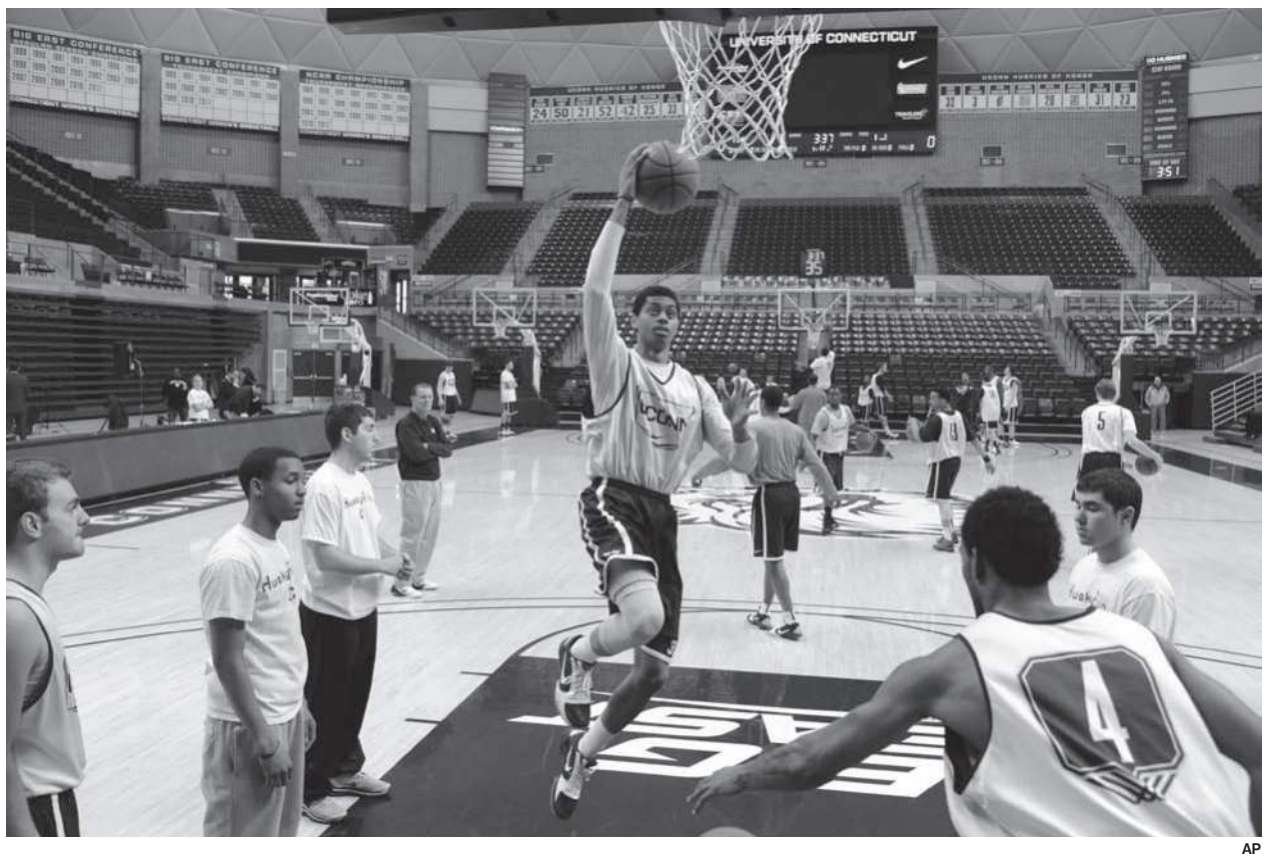
UConn was back on campus Tuesday, practicing before Wednesday's trip to Houston. The Huskies play Kentucky on Saturday.

Walker said once they get to Texas, he will sit down with the freshmen and tell them about his experiences during the 2009 Final Four, where UConn lost to Michigan State. He wants to make sure this class does not get as overwhelmed as he did by the experience.

"I don't think anybody could tell them anything right now," Walker said. "They're on top of the world right now. They're playing great basketball, each and every one of them. We're going to need these guys big time for us. They got us where we are now, so hopefully they can keep it up."

Walker has gotten most of the credit for UConn's nine-game run through the postseason, averaging almost 27 points a game in the NCAA tournament.

But Lamb has been averaging over 18 points, and shooting over 73 percent from 3-point range. His 3-pointer, steal and dunk were keys to UConn's win over San Diego State in the regional semifinals. And his teammates say his calm, almost stoic demeanor, has helped keep the Huskies from getting too keyed up in key situations.



AP

Connecticut freshman Jeremy Lamb, center, goes to the basket during practice in Storrs, Conn., Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Connecticut's junior star Kemba Walker gets most of the headlines, but the play of three freshmen, especially swingman Jeremy Lamb has been part of the Huskies' improbable run to the Final Four.

"He just has that laid-back personality, but trust me no one's heart is beating any faster than his," said coach Jim Calhoun. "I think he can be a very special player and he's starting to become a special player."

Smith scored a career-high 17 in the Huskies first-round win over Bucknell and has been averaging six points and five rebounds. Nappier averages eight points, and had 10 in the regional final win over Arizona.

But Walker says Nappier's biggest contributions have not shown up on the stat sheet.

"He brings that extra playmaking ability to the team," Walker said. "There's times when I'm not able to be on the ball the whole game because maybe I'm a little fatigued. Guys will want to ball pressure me, and he gives me that extra edge."

Nappier said the freshmen realized their time had come during the Arizona game, when during a late timeout, the coaches drew up a play for Lamb instead of Walker.

"For the whole team to point out a freshman, it showed a lot," he said.

Lamb says he's been inspired by watching video clips of his father, Rolando Lamb, hitting a game-winning buzzer-beater in the second round of the 1984 tournament for Virginia Commonwealth. That shot sent Northeastern and its coach, Jim Calhoun, walking off the court dejected.

"It's a good clip," Lamb said. "Sometimes I just watch it over and over again. It's nice. No, I don't bring it up with coach; he might slap me."

But Calhoun said with the way Lamb has played this tournament, all has been forgiven.

"I have said to his father," Calhoun quipped. "One loss equals one Final Four? Great trade."

Smart's rise no shock to those who know him best

NEW YORK (AP)--When Shaka Smart found out his social studies teacher was also a basketball coach, the seventh-grader would hang around his desk every day, talking about Magic Johnson or the latest move he was perfecting on the playground.

"He was this effervescent, bubbly, bouncy, chattery little guy," Kevin Bavery remembered Tuesday. "He was clearly different and driven and passionate."

Still is.

By taking VCU, a team many didn't even think belonged in the NCAA tournament, to the Final Four at just 33, Smart has become the coach of the moment, the prospect at the top of everyone's wish list. There is substance behind that stylish name, however - a maturity, perspective and vision that are trademarks of the game's greatest coaches.

If Smart and Butler's Brad Stevens are the cornerstones of the future, their generation's Dean Smiths or Coach Ks, Smart's friends and mentors say the game will be in good hands. The young coaches face each other Saturday night, when VCU plays Butler in the most unlikely of national semifinals, a matchup of mid-majors in a game usually reserved for powerhouses.

"Shaka and Brad are two young guys who were given an opportunity, and they've absolutely ran with it," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "I think it's good for our game because they're good guys who are good coaches."

Smart grew up in Oregon, Wis., a village of fewer than 10,000 people about 10 miles south of Madison. His father, who named him after 19th-century African warrior Shaka Zulu, left the family early, and he was raised by his mother. She didn't have many rules, but her sons knew better than to bring home a bad grade.

"And sometimes a bad grade was as high as a B," Smart recalled. "So I had to excel in the classroom. I didn't really have a choice."

Smart's love for basketball began with his grandfather, Walter King, who lived in Chicago and would send Smart packages of basketball-related articles. King died early Tuesday at 90.

A standout point guard - he set the Oregon record with 458 career assists from 1991-95—Smart dreamed of playing Division I basketball, maybe getting a shot at the NBA. After a few trips to all-star shootouts in Chicago, however, he realized he likely would get very little playing time, and would probably be better off at a Division III program.

Accepted at Harvard, Yale and Brown, Smart instead chose to take an academic scholarship at Kenyon College, a small private school in Gambier, Ohio, and play for Bill Brown.

"Bill Brown is probably the closest I had, definitely the closest I had to a father figure in my life," Smart said. "Going to Kenyon was an easy decision."

Academically, Smart did so well at Kenyon—he graduated magna cum laude—that his adviser suggested he pursue a Ph.D. But Brown, who left after Smart's freshman year, had told Smart there would always be a job open on his staff, and Smart couldn't pass up the opportunity. After graduating from Kenyon, Smart joined Brown as an assistant at California (Pa.) University.

"I believe he sees coaching as the way I see teaching, which is a way to reach kids and to make a difference in their lives," said Peter Rutkoff, an American studies professor at Kenyon who served as Smart's adviser and directed his senior honors project. "The coaching thing really grabbed him in a way that was undeniable."

That was no surprise to Bavery, the social studies teacher who would coach Smart at Oregon High School.

His former players often worked his youth camps. When they used their breaks to get water, eat lunch or even just rest for a few minutes, Smart would stay out on the court, working on his game, and the campers would soon join him.

"Pretty soon, you'd literally see the entire gym, 35 to 40 campers chasing him all over the gym," Bavery said. "It was like the Pied Piper. That was where you could really see his high-level passion for the game."

Smart spent two years at California, working camps in his free time. It was at one of those camps that he caught the eye of Dayton coach Oliver Purnell, who offered him a job as director of basketball operations.

Two years later, Smart was hired as an assistant at Akron by Keith Dambrot, LeBron James' high school coach.

On Smart's first day, Dambrot put him in charge of James' workout—no small task considering that was the summer James got drafted.

"He was nervous, but he wasn't intimidated. He worked me out like I was one of his college kids, and I respected that," James said. "To see where he has come in eight years, to now being a coach in the Final Four, much respect to him."

A Final Four of big bets, busted brackets

NEW YORK (AP)--Jay Kornegay isn't sure who the guy is, or exactly what his motivation was. All he knows is no one is laughing at him now.

That probably wasn't the case months ago when the man walked into the sports book at the Las Vegas Hilton, put $10 on the counter and pocketed a betting slip on Virginia Commonwealth to win the national championship. It was the kind of wager that can cause snickers among the knowing, much like betting on the Pittsburgh Pirates to win the World Series.

"Maybe it's someone whose girlfriend went to VCU," Kornegay said. "I don't know. But you'd like to be holding that golden ticket."

Who wouldn't. Two more wins for the Rams, and they go into the record books as the most unlikely of all Cinderellas, the first team to win seven games in the NCAA tournament and win the national title.

And the bettor who holds the winning ticket will be a cool $50,000 richer. Try making that in your office pool.

"I was kind of hoping it would end yesterday," said Kornegay, who runs the Hilton sports book. "I just shake my head thinking they're in the Final Four."

The Hilton book will survive, of course, even if VCU caps its remarkable run with the title. The betting in Vegas is that VCU won't, with the Rams the longest shot of the Final Four teams at 9-2 odds.

But the beauty of the NCAA tournament is that there's still room for marginal teams to get hot and do something magical. And they don't get much more marginal than VCU, which was savaged on national television by ESPN's Jay Bilas as unworthy when the field was announced and then made an underdog in every game by professional oddsmakers.

Add Butler to the mix, and even the wise guys are scratching their heads.

"There's always been one team that is a big surprise," said Art Manteris, who runs the sports books for Station Casinos. "I don't ever remember two."

If the people who should know are confused, so are the average Joes. Well, not all the average Joes.

Joe Pearlman, who lives in East Brunswick, N.J., and works in information technology, was one of only two people out of 5.9 million entries in ESPN.com's bracket tournament to pick all the Final Four teams correctly, something that could make him $10,000 should VCU go on to win the national title.

Among the millions who had their brackets busted by VCU was President Barack Obama, who had Kansas to win it all. But the Rams did make some money for bettors in Vegas, who won $650 for every $100 they wagered that VCU could beat the Jayhawks straight up.

If the NCAA had its way, of course, you would never read about those figures. The organization likes to pretend that the tournament exists solely for the purpose of picking a national champion, ignoring the fact that millions of people around the nation wager a bit of their paychecks on the tournament in one way or another.

They don't worry about such things in the sports books, where Kentucky should draw plenty of action as the new favorite to win it all. VCU, the underdog in all five of its wins, should also be a popular pick as a 2 1/2 -point dog to Butler.

The Rams won't be as popular behind the counter at the Las Vegas Hilton, though, if only because Kornegay cringes at the thought of paying out $50,000 on a $10 bet.

"I was a Kansas fan yesterday," he said. "And I'll be rooting for Butler on Saturday."

Norita notches RGA March Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New Refaluwash Golf Association member Ned Norita had a winning debut with the club after claiming the RGA March Ace title on Sunday in a tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The eight-handicapper carded a 36 on the front and 40 on the back for a gross 76 and net 68, setting the lowest net in the weekend tournament. Norita's 68 also bested the 70 Jesse Seman recorded during the March qualifying event, handing the new RGA member the Ace title of the month.

Sonny Flores and Tom Tebuteb completed the Top 3 finish in the March tournament after tallying identical net scores of 71. Flores won the tiebreak and took the second place, as his 6.5 handicap on the front nine gave him a net 35.5. Flores also had a 42 on the back nine for a gross 84. The 20-handicapper Tebuteb fired a gross 46 on the front and ended up with a net 36 in the first nine holes. He nailed a 45 on the back nines for a gross 91.

Eleven other RGA members joined the March tournament, including newcomer Nick Guerrero, who tallied a net 84. Martin Ada finished with a net 73 for fourth place, followed by Jun Piao (74), Seman (76), Ray Tigilau (77), Tars Olopai (77), Ulysis Kapileo (78), Dwaine Stephens (78), Jess Wabol (78), and Manny Mangarero (85).

Stephens and Olopai won the closest to the pin contests on hole Nos. 8 and 15, respectively.

Meanwhile, RGA will have its April qualifying tournament on April 10 and the Ace event on April 24. Both events will be held at Coral Ocean Point and check-in and tee times will be announced later.

RGA is also encouraging its members to participate in the Marianas March Against Cancer's fundraising tournament this Saturday and the Tinian Mayor's Cup next month.

The club added RGA is still open for membership. The annual fee is only $25.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Tars Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129.

AYUYUS

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The Ayuyus overcame an early two-possession deficit in the opening period, made a big second quarter push, and went on to hold the MISO All-Stars to six points in the third quarter before cruising to an easy 81-63 win in the championship game.

In the girls finals, the Lady Dolphins clung to an early lead they built from the tip and came out strong in the last two minutes of the regulation to run away with a 68-56 victory over Settsu Red Impulse.

John Cenir caught fire early for the MISO All-Stars, scoring nine points and helping his team take a 21-17 lead after the first quarter.

Then Sahj Hossain and Juan Maratita brought Kagman back in the game, as they combined for 21 markers in the second period. On defense, the Ayuyus contained their foes to just 13 points in the second canto to grab the lead at halftime, 45-34. Darag added eight more points in the second quarter.

After the break, Kagman's defense continued to stuff the MISO All-Stars, who scored only six points in the third period. The Ayuyus fed big man Savali Talalemotu in the paint, allowing the Kagman center to score eight points in that period.

The game was over by the start of the final quarter, as Kagman kept on scoring. Hossain led all scorers with 24 points, while Darag turned in 21 in the loss.

In the girls finals, MHS managed an early 17-13 lead in the opening period behind Lia Rangamar's seven points. Then Jeraldine Castillo delivered six markers in the second quarter, as MHS kept the driver's seat at the half, 31-26.

Red Impulse's feisty point guard Reika Yamasaki scrambled for 10 points in the first half to help keep her team in contention.

The Lady Dolphins maintained their margin, 50-44, heading into the final period after Rangamar and Jaime Mendoza combined for 13 markers in the third quarter.

Red Impulse fought hard from behind all game, but MHS finally broke Settsu's back in the final two minutes of the match when the Lady Dolphins nailed a pair of clutch three pointers.

Rangamar paced MHS with 20 points, while Yamasaki delivered 18 in the short end.

The Lady Dolphins guard went on to receive an individual award, joining MISO All-Stars' Charlene Lizardo and COPSSA All-Stars' Jodel Fernandez in the list of top performers in the short tournament. In the boys division, the top individual performers were Kagman's Maratita, MISO All-Stars' Ryan Ichihara, and COPSSA's Yishan Wang.

Meanwhile, Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association All-Stars defeated Settsu Red Impulse in the boys consolation game, 68-55, while the Lady Dolphins knocked out third-ranked MISO All-Stars, 82-47, before taking on Red Impulse in the finals.

BANMI thanks sponsors

Meanwhile, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands would like to thank the following for supporting the Settsu-Saipan caging: Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Tan Holdings, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Lan-Tech (Japan), Delta Air Lines, DFS Galleria Saipan, Practical Solutions, LLC, KSPN Channel 2, IP&E, KKMP 92.1 FM, 1440 AM, Triple J 5-Star Wholesale Super Fresh Market, AC Pacific, LLC-Star Sands Plaza, Joeten Superstore, and Coca-Cola/Foremost.

BANMI also acknowledged MHS principal Craig Garrison, James Feger, MHS Productions, Marianas Visitors Authority, Flame Tree Network and Marianas Visitor's Channel, Mayor's Office of Saipan and Mayor Donald Flores, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, secretary Melvin Faisao, Division of Youth Services director Jackie Mendiola, Office of the Governor, 18th CNMI Legislature, Rotary Club of Saipan president Glen Perez, all Rotarians, Consulate of Japan and Consulate Tatsumoto Higuchi and staff, Pubic School System, Commissioner of Education Rita Sablan, public and private school principals, administrators, teachers, basketball coaches, Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association, Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel, Revolving Restaurant 360, officials of the Referees Association, Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety, Cultura Athletics, national basketball development Elias Rangamar, Lawrence Camacho, and all the volunteers who made the event possible.

Boys Finals

KHS 81– Hossain 24, Maratita 21, Talalemotu 18, Mettao 9, Faisao 5, Babauta 2, Ogo 2.

MISO All-Stars 63 – Darag 21, Cenir 13, Cadiang 8, Castro 7, Del Rosario 4, Desebel 4, Dela Rosa 2, Ichihara 2, Muna 1, Villanueva 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 45-34, 64-40, 81-63.

Girls Finals

MHS 68 – Rangamar 20, Mendoza 18, Palero 12, J.D. Castillo 8, Abrams 4, J.L. Castillo 4, Williams 2.

Red Impulse 56 – Yamasaki 18, Nakaoka 10, Maeda 8, N. Hasimoto 4, Maeiki 4, Miyaura 4, Meshima 3, Iwamoro 2, Oida 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13, 31-26, 50-44, 68-56.

MEN'S

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the first playoff seats, following a 7-0 slate. Andrew Galvez and Edwin Montoya may join the two after posting a 5-1 card with one game left. The two remaining semis slots are up for grabs among four teams.

In the men's B doubles, only the Top 2 teams in each of the three pools will make it to the next round. In Group 1, Gary Bandoja and Oh Imbog and Saul Gargallo and John Revilla have the strongest chance to advance after posting identical 3-0 slates and with each team playing two more games.

In Group 2, Noli Santos and Rommel Catalma zeroed in on a playoff ticket after a 4-0 card, while three other squads will fight for the remaining slot. In Group 3, only one slot is also left, as Mario Diola and Narlo Achas had already secured the first seat after completing the pool with a 5-0 mark.

In the mixed A doubles events, the race for the four semis berths is still open, but Hapi Gabriel and Malou Malasarte and Galvez and Angie Ito have the slight edge with their similar 3-1 slates. Eight teams are entered in the event.

In the mixed B doubles, which is divided into four groups, four slots were already taken with Rodwealth Espana and Merlie Tolentino (4-1) and Lani Bartolome and Jojo Lazaro (4-1) clinching the two after placing in the Top 2 in Group 1. Group 3 Top 2 finishers Hibi and Lucelle Lampera (5-0) and Edwin Maratas and partner (4-1) took the other two.

In mixed C doubles, Oh and Hwang Meong sealed the first playoff seat after carding a 4-1 record. Rick Brien and Jen Savellano have the best chance to nail the last seat in the six-team field Group 1, while the battle for the two berths each in Groups 2 and 3 is still too close to call.

NORTHERN

From Page 28

frame off a fielder's choice.

Then Lions went ahead, 4-1, in the top of the third off errors, but the Stars came alive and seized the lead, 5-4, in the bottom frame. Isiah Lizama busted an RBI single and scored off an error. The other two runs came in off a couple base hits and a wild pitch.

The Lions then went 1-2-3 in the top of the fourth, but pitcher Richard Dela Cruz struck out the side in the bottom frame for the Lions. Then the Stars pulled ahead, 7-4, in the bottom frame of the fifth. Josh Jones reached off an error and stole home and Dodet Feliciano connected with an RBI single.

Stars' Jones struck out the side to start the sixth and his team added two more runs in the bottom frame. Thomas Camacho belted an RBI single, while Jones hit an RBI double in the bottom frame.

The Lions endured three punch-outs in four at bats during their final stand.

Jones pitched five shut-out innings with zero hits, zero walks, and 12 strikeouts. He also batted 2-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs.

SENIOR LEAGUE

Jets 12, Heats 5

The Jets struck the board first with a pair of runs in the bottom of the opening frame. Yoichi Arurang led off with a single and later stole home. The other run came in off an error.

The Jets went ahead, 5-0, in the bottom second off an RBI base rip by Ray Tenorio and a two-RBI double by Brian Camacho.

It was three up and three down again for the Heats to start the third and Jets added three runs in the bottom frame. Arurang smashed an RBI triple. Tenorio drove him home, and a hit later, Tyler Kaipat delivered another RBI single.

Heats finally found a run off a sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth, but the Jets still went ahead, 9-1. Heats managed a pair of runs in the top of the fifth off an RBI single by Lucio Kalen and a passed ball, but the Jets answered with three runs in the bottom frame. Heats only mustered two runs in its final stand.

Winning pitcher Ray Camacho allowed one earned run in five and two-thirds innings off just one hit and five walks and he also had six strikeouts. Camacho batted 3-for-4 with an RBI and three runs. Jets' Ray Tenorio batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs.

Hunters 12, Heats 0

Hunters broke the ice with three runs in the bottom of the opening frame. Jesse Deleon Guerrero scored leadoff batter Ian Lizama off a sacrifice fly before Palmerson Monkeya belted an RBI single; he made it home later off an error.

Then the Hunters jumped ahead, 7-0, in the bottom frame off a bunch of errors and a RBI base knock by Deleon Guerrero. The Heats offense stalled again in the top of the third and Hunters pulled away 11-0, in the bottom frame off a couple wild pitches and a two-RBI double by Tommy Reyes. The Hunters added another run off an error in the bottom half before closing the last three outs.

Monkeya batted 2-for-2 for the Hunters, who scored 12 runs off just six hits against the Heats' only one hit.

MP UNITED

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United, which hold similar 2-0-0 slates.

Soo Hyun Lim and Min Woo Kim scored two goals apiece for Sky FC, while Min Jong Choi, Sung Ho Kang, and Ji Hyun Lee delivered one each to demolish the winless Shirley's FC. The losing squad dropped to a 0-3 record, sharing the bottom of the team standings with Independents Football Club.

Tan Holdings 3, IFC 1

In the Division B match on Sunday, Tan Holdings handed IFC its third defeat in as many games.

Jershwin Angeles logged two goals for Tan Holdings, scoring his first in the 34th minute and the second in the 56th. Jasper Yap put Tan Holdings in the scoreboard with a goal in the 33rd minute. IFC's lone goal came from Jonavin Ichihara in the 48th minute.

With the victory, Tan Holdings now has a 2-0-1 card for a share of second place with Sky FC.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	51	22	.699	–
Philadelphia	38	36	.514	13 1/2
New York	36	38	.486	15 1/2
New Jersey	23	50	.315	28
Toronto	20	53	.274	31

Southeast Division

x-Miami	51	23	.689	–
x-Orlando	47	27	.635	4
x-Atlanta	42	32	.568	9
Charlotte	31	42	.425	19 1/2
Washington	18	55	.247	32 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	53	20	.726	–
Indiana	33	42	.440	21
Milwaukee	29	44	.397	24
Detroit	26	47	.356	27
Cleveland	15	58	.205	38

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	17	.770	–
x-Dallas	52	21	.712	4 1/2
New Orleans	42	32	.568	15
Memphis	41	33	.554	16
Houston	39	35	.527	18

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	49	24	.671	–
Denver	44	29	.603	5
Portland	43	31	.581	6 1/2
Utah	36	39	.480	14
Minnesota	17	57	.230	32 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	53	20	.726	–
Phoenix	36	37	.493	17
Golden State	32	43	.427	22
L.A. Clippers	29	45	.392	24 1/2
Sacramento	21	52	.288	32

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 102, Miami 90
Houston 112, New Jersey 87
Oklahoma City 115, Golden State 114, OT
Sacramento 116, Phoenix 113

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA Standings

Division A	G	W	D	L	GF	GA
MP United A	4	3	1	0	17	7
Inter Godfathers	4	3	1	0	13	3
Paire	3	1	1	1	8	9
Arirang FC	4	1	1	2	12	11
Wild Bill's	4	1	0	3	10	1
BDS	3	0	0	3	5	14

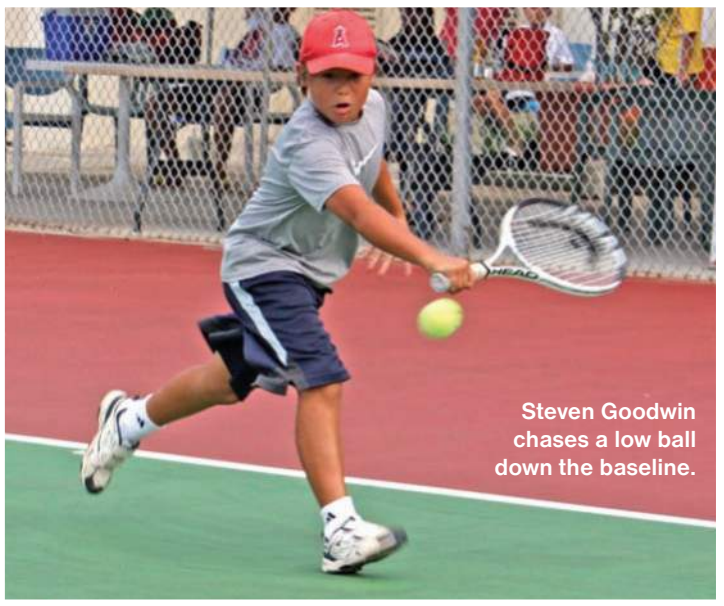
Division B

MP United B	2	2	0	0	7	1
Matansa FC	2	2	0	0	7	4
SKY FC	3	2	0	1	18	3
Tan Holding's FC	3	2	0	1	6	2
Shirley's FC	3	0	0	3	3	13
IFC	3	0	0	3	1	17

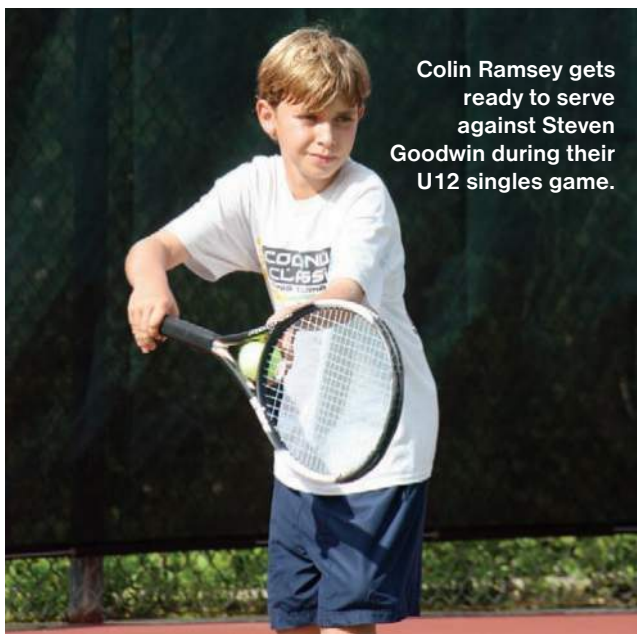
Week 1 of PIC Tennis Championships

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

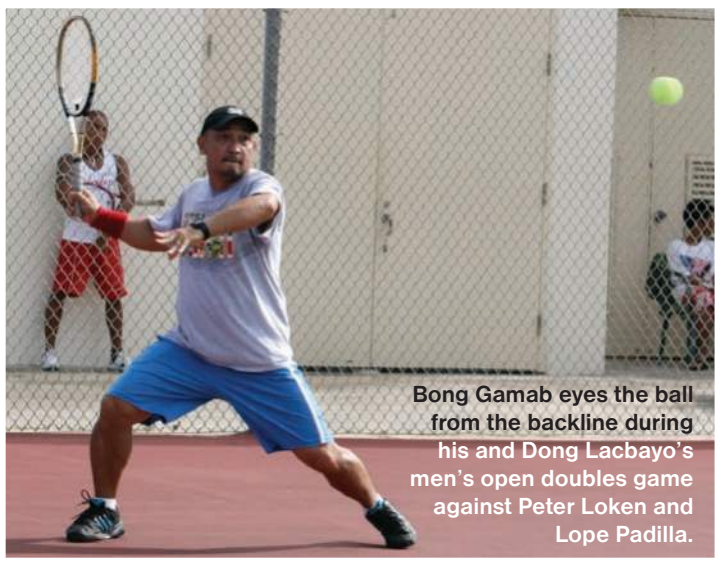
Amami Sakano serves to Tommy Choi during their game in the boys U15 singles division of the 11th Annual PIC Tennis Championships on Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.



Steven Goodwin chases a low ball down the baseline.



Colin Ramsey gets ready to serve against Steven Goodwin during their U12 singles game.



Bong Gamab eyes the ball from the backline during his and Dong Lacbayo's men's open doubles game against Peter Loken and Lope Padilla.

Nina Engelhardt goes for a return during a warm-up in the women's open doubles game.

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Ayuyus, Lady Dolphins triumph

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Kagman High School's Sajh Hossain goes up for a layup against MISO All-Stars' Melvin Cadiang during their championship game in the Settsu-Saipan caging on Tuesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Kagman won, 81-63.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School and Settsu Red Impulse players pose for a group photo after their championship game in the Settsu-Saipan caging on Tuesday night at the MHS Gymnasium. MHS won, 68-56.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Kagman High School Ayuyus and Marianas High School Lady Dolphins topped the 2011 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament after downing separate foes on Tuesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

See AYUYUS on Page 26

MP United gains share of men's league lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United notched twin wins last week to grab a share of the top spot in Division A of the 2011 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League.

MP United first edged Arirang FC, 2-1, last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, and then won via forfeit over Wild Bill's on Sunday, 3-0, to improve to a 3-1-0 win-draw-loss record. Inter Godfather's has the same record to share the lead with MP United.

Yong Park scored one of the two goals for MP United, finding the back of the net in the 36th minute. MP United's second goal in the 53rd minute was credited to the player wearing jersey No. 26. The official score sheet of the match listed no player with that uniform number.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Nick Swaim, right, of MP United United kicks the ball while teammate Kirk Schuler looks on during the opening week of the NMIFA men's league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Inter Godfather's 1, Arirang FC 1

In the other Division A game, Inter Godfather's failed to nail the solo lead after drawing Arirang in the third and last match on Sunday, 1-1.

Both goals were off penalty kicks with Arirang FC scoring first in the 24th minute courtesy of Jun Woo Lee. Then two minutes before the first half ended, Inter Godfather's was also given a penalty kick with Darin Keizer capitalizing on the opportunity to tie the game.

With the draw, Arirang FC dropped to fourth place in the team standings with its 1-1-2 slate.

DIVISION B
Sky FC 7, Shirley's 0

In the Division B game on Tuesday, Sky FC shut out Shirley's, 7-0.

The win improved Sky FC's record to 2-0-1 for second place in the team standings behind Matansa and MP

See MP UNITED on Page 26

Men's C doubles semis cast complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The four playoff spots in the men's C doubles division of the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition were filled over the weekend, following the conclusion of the pool plays at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Making it to the semifinals were the tandems of Son Jae Ok and Oh An Yeol, Kanata Omori and Brendon Talania of Group 1 and Group 2's Eydie Uy and Noel Wong and Father Charlie Borja and Jerome Malasarte.

Son and Oh topped Group 1 with an unbeaten 4-0 record, while Omori and Talania finished second in the five-team field with a 3-1 slate. Uy and Wong were also undefeated in Group 2 to gain the third semis slot, while Borja and Malasarte punched the last ticket after a 3-1 slate in the pool play.

Joining the four men's C doubles semifinalists to the next round were 10 other pairs.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saul Gargallo hits a volley during a men's doubles game in the Tan Holdings tournament at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

In the men's A doubles, only two teams are likely to advance to the semis with the duo of Jerry Hibi and Ferdie Arago securing

See MEN'S on Page 26

Northern Stars tame Lions in Big League

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Natibu Sports Association Northern Stars, Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets, and St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters notched separate wins in last weekend's games in the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Big League's Northern Stars overcame an early deficit against the Speaker Eli D. Cabrera-Rep Fred DLGuerrero-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions in the third inning and held on for the 9-4 victory on Sunday. In the Senior League, the Hunters shut out the Rep. Rafael Demapan Heats, 12-0, in five innings on Saturday, while the Jets downed the Heats, 12-5, on Friday.

BIG LEAGUE
Northern Stars 9, Lions 4

The Lions took an early 2-1 lead in the top of the first inning off an RBI single by Mike Iguel and a fielder's choice, but the Northern Stars got a run back in the bottom

See NORTHERN on Page 26